

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

THE HOUR OF TEMPTATION.

It may be permitted us to rejoice in the character, if we cannot in the results, of the opposition which has been raised to the Government scheme of education. We attach great importance to the nature of the grounds on which that opposition has been conducted. As a victory may be, in some respects, worse than a defeat; so a defeat may be, in some respects, better than a victory. Had the agitation of the past few weeks been successful in reference to the particular object sought, and yet exclusively, or even chiefly, caused by appeals to selfish or sectarian interests, there would have been infinitely less reason for congratulation than may now be found in the reflection that, though in vain, it represented and aimed at great and universal principles; that it was fair though fruitless; that, without achieving a triumph, it deserved one.

Amid varieties of individual sentiment, the main features impressed upon the proceedings taken by the opponents of the Minutes of Council, are clear, distinct, and unmistakable. Justice, impartiality, liberty, have been their glory and defence. If these sacred rights have been left, for the most part, to the advocacy of Dissenters, surely it is not their fault. Though not insensible to the peculiar danger which threatens their peculiar cause, they have endeavoured to avert it only on principles that would throw a shield over the common interests and claims of man. They have asked no favour, no exemption, for themselves. The true cause and course of national education, the full measure of civil freedom, the sacred rights of human conscience, the high behests of truth, have been the broad and solid ground on which they have proceeded. They have pleaded for others as well as for themselves—for others who have stood aloof, or have been present only to malign and oppose.

It is not, however, with the past but with the future that we have to do. What is the actual case of Nonconformists in consequence of the Government measure? What are their duties, dangers, temptations? Upon one point alone would we now dwell. There are two matters in reference to which it is doubly important that Nonconformists should gird themselves to patient, cheerful, vigorous duty. Despondency and inactivity are the immediate suggestions of the hour; a little reflection may suffice to show that its real demands are for zeal and energetic labour.

We can imagine that a feeling of disheartenment may creep over some sincere friends of voluntaryism as they dwell upon this fresh violation of their cherished principle, this seeming further postponement of their fond hopes. Dismal, indeed, is the prospect of "the redemption of the Gospel," when, as now, a new extension of the union between things civil and spiritual takes place amongst us, and Liberal politicians, and professed Voluntaries, are found approving and abetting it; when, the adult having been previously provided for, the young are brought under the wholesale influence of State religion. With what joy can the destiny of a cause be contemplated, when, in addition to antagonistic forces sufficient to oppose in any case, it is found that many of its own friends are willing to resign its fundamental principle for the sake of an expediency, and many more cannot even see when it is violated? This language is, in some views and moods, far from unnatural; yet is it far from just and wise. Is the putting away of civil establishments of religion an object of great desirableness and importance? Is it to be sought for its own sake? If so, whatever is dispiriting in the state of the question is really argument for greater zeal. "A truth is often most in season when it is least in favour." When a man essays to justify unfaithfulness by saying—"I am left alone"—he only utters its loudest possible reproof.

The condition of the cause of Voluntaryism is not rendered worse, but better, by the revelation of the worthlessness, so far as its promotion is concerned, of many of its friends. The Minutes of Council may have blinded some, and hardened others, but there is no loss. On the contrary, there is gain. A dead limb is worse than none.

One thing is solemnly taught the Dissenters of this kingdom by recent events—not only that they should zealously aim at the liberation of religion from state alliances, but that they must do it on a clear principle, and with a good conscience. The "muscle of our strength" has been the assertion of the vital truth; the resource of our opponents has been policy, expediency, the state of parties, statistics, reports, &c., &c. The defenders of the Minutes have rarely attempted to meet us on the open field of a plain and universal doctrine, but have sought to tempt us into the thickets of everlasting figures of rhetoric or arithmetic. And it has been likewise seen, and most sorrowfully felt, that a disadvantage of untold force was suffered by Dissenters, in having, though in "the times of their ignorance," perhaps, committed themselves to the course against which they now protest. They had "said unto them this proverb, Physician, heal thyself!" May they henceforth learn minutest consistency! The deliverer of Israel must not abide in Pharaoh's house.

The other matter we designed to touch upon is education. Dissenters have been warm promoters of this, and the fact cannot be denied. It may suit unprincipled advocates to call them "anti-educationists." It is an old device. The first Christians were "atheists," according to the heathen. But if the charge were more than an impudent falsehood—what reproach would it reflect upon its authors and propagators? Is their education entirely identified with a State plan? Cannot they distinguish—are they unable to separate? Have they done nothing—mean they to do nothing—for it, that the opponents of a Government scheme are all the same to them as the opponents of the thing itself?

In resisting that scheme, however, a great profession has been made, and ought to have been made, of love for the instruction of the people. We trust that love will not be chilled, nor its operation checked, by the difficulties and discouragements in which it must now be cherished and expressed; that Dissenters will be found faithful to the good work in weakness and sorrow as they have been in strength and peace, "true as the dial to the sun, although it be not shone upon." They will be powerfully exercised in this thing. The new scheme must have a disastrous influence on the educational institutions which are supported on the voluntary principle, and a large demand will consequently be made upon the sincere devotion of their supporters. Would it not be well for them to seek some general understanding as to the course necessary for them to take, if not to adopt some united plan of meeting the exigencies which have now arisen? It seems to us, that a conference of the friends of voluntary education, to take into calm and full consideration their present position and duty, is exceedingly desirable, if not absolutely indispensable. If such be held, the sooner it is convened the better, for every reason.

We cannot conceal from ourselves that the Government scheme of education presents before the Dissenters of this kingdom a prospect of unusual solemnity. It is many a long year since they have been subjected to a trial of equal severity with that which is coming upon them. We know something of the pressure that, in many parts, almost bears down the spirit of conscientious dissidents from the ecclesiastical Establishment of this country, and of the inducements by which they are constantly plied to relinquish the contest of principle for the sake of peace and profit; but the system here introduced will immeasurably augment the need of patience, fortitude, and self-denial, on the part of those who even now find the keeping of a good conscience and the doing of truth a trust to which they are scarcely competent. Parents, whose toil can barely provide for those they love the necessities of life; teachers, whose zealous labours receive not a remuneration which they deserve, or imagine they deserve; and patrons of schools on whom, through the failure of others, may disproportionately devolve the burden of supporting such institutions: these and others must, in due time, be strongly attracted to the proffered advantages of the Government plan. The appeal is powerful—it is to flesh and blood—to much of the evil, and, also, to get a little of the good, in our common nature. Not to yield to the seduction, not

to "touch the garments spotted by the flesh," must entail, in cases almost beyond the power of numbers, all the sufferings and mortifications of a living martyrdom. Will the test be borne? Will the price of consistency be paid? Will the faith be kept—the fight be fought? We have hope that it will—though not unmixed with fear. Exceptions, doubtless, will occur. Some there are who may be naturally expected to take the bribe; and, perhaps, some will take it who ought not to be expected to do so. But the main body of opponents of Church Establishments will surely stand firm. Upon their doing so depend consequences too important to be contemplated without the gravest possible concern. Should they fail, their conscience will be defiled, their principles compromised, their good name tarnished, the very essence of their protest against "spiritual wickednesses in high places" eaten out, and their heart and power to seek its removal effectually destroyed. It is the hour of their temptation. They are placed upon their moral probation. No common subtlety and force of evil assails them. And if, deeming it "good for food, pleasant to the eye, and to be desired to make one wise," they should partake of the fruit of the professed tree of knowledge, they will prove it, and mayhap their posterity with them, to be the tree of DEATH.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES.

BRAINTREE.—A public meeting to appoint delegates to the approaching Conference of the Anti-state-church Association from the district of Braintree and Bocking, was held at the Baptist chapel, Braintree, on Tuesday evening, 13th inst. E. G. Craig, Esq., was called to the chair, who opened the business of the evening in a short, but effective speech. After exposing with great clearness and force the incongruity of all coercion with the genius of true religion and laws of mind; he expressed his deliberate and ever deepening conviction that the time was come when it became the imperative duty of the friends of spiritual Christianity, not only to act on the defensive, but to employ all legitimate and constitutional means to emancipate religious and educational institutions from all State control. Mr. D. Rees, Baptist minister, then delivered an extended address on the history, objects, and operations, of the Anti-state-church Association. He tried to obviate some of the various misapprehensions which are entertained both by Dissenters and Episcopalians relative to the objects and character of the movement. He gave a brief account of the leading circumstances and occasions which led to the formation of the Society, and explained the precise and exclusive object which it contemplates—the liberation of religion from all State interference. After pointing out the kind of means and instrumentality by which the Society seeks the accomplishment of its design; he adverted to some of the more prominent reasons which seemed to him, not only to justify the movement, but which also urgently called upon all the friends of uncorrupted Christianity to unite all their energies to effectuate the speedy and entire separation of the Church from the State. The address, which lasted a full hour, was received by a numerous and very attentive auditory, with the warmest marks of approbation. The following resolution was then moved by Mr. J. Shearcroft, and seconded by D. H. Piper, Esq., and carried unanimously:—"That this meeting desires to express its cordial approval of the principles and constitution of the Anti-state-church Association as expounded in the address just delivered; and pledges itself to use all peaceful means to carry into effect the great object which it contemplates, namely, the separation of Church and State." The next resolution, appointing Messrs. J. Shearcroft and D. Rees to attend the approaching Conference as delegates from the meeting, was moved by Mr. L. Smith, in a very telling speech, and seconded by Mr. Davis, and carried unanimously. Other resolutions were subsequently adopted, the principle of which related to the appointment of a provisional committee empowered to call and arrange for another public meeting immediately after the Conference to receive the report of the delegates, and to adopt such measures for subsequent operation as may be deemed suitable.

CHESHAM.—On Tuesday last, a meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Chesham was convened at the Town-hall, to hear a lecture from John Kingsley, Esq., B.A., explanatory of the principles and objects of the above Association. The hall was crowded by a most respectable audience. On the motion of the Rev. S. Ayrton, which was seconded by the Rev. T. E. Stallybrass, Ebenezer West,

Esq., was called to the chair. After a few introductory remarks, the chairman introduced the lecturer. The very eloquent and animated lecture, which took up nearly three hours, was listened to with great attention and the deepest interest. At the close of the lecture, on the motion of the Rev. W. Payne, seconded by Mr. Ford, it was unanimously agreed "That this meeting adopt the fundamental principles of the Association, and that the Rev. T. E. Stallybrass, B.A., be appointed as delegate to represent this meeting at the Triennial Conference of this association, to be held in London, on the 4th of May. The thanks of the assembly were then voted to the lecturer and the chairman, and the meeting dispersed apparently very highly delighted. It is hoped that the meeting will tend to the diffusion of the principles of Dissent, and to arouse the Dissenters themselves to act out their principles.—*Abridged from the Aylesbury News.*

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE.—At a meeting of the Unitarian Congregation of Stamford-street, Blackfriars, held last Sunday, at the close of the morning service, the Rev. William Hincks, was appointed a delegate to this Conference.—*Inquirer.*

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—We have great pleasure in announcing, that at a meeting of Sunday-school teachers, held in Leeds, on Wednesday evening, the superintendent (Mr. Joseph Parkins), and one of the teachers (Mr. Elihu Finnie), were appointed delegates to the triennial conference of the British Anti-state-church Association; and, in addition to the numerous towns mentioned in our last number as having elected delegates, we may add the following:—Alloa (Scotland), one delegate; Appledore, one; Bradford (Yorks), two; Chesham (Bucks), two; Great Missenden (Bucks), two; Liverpool, two; Leicester, ten; Long Buckby, two; Leeds, two; Markyate-street (Herts), two; Romsey, one; Salford, two; and from Evesham, Barnsley, Esher, Bradford (several), Leeds, Worsop, Melrose, Kelvedon, Braintree, Northampton, Neath, Rochdale, Bermondsey, and several other districts of London; Brook (Chatham), two; Alcester, two; Stepney, two; Oakham, two; Kingston, two; Northampton, two; Haworth (Bradford), two; Accrington, two; Longsight (Manchester), two; Shelton (Hanley), two; Wendover, two; Westgate Sunday-schools, Bradford, one; Bacup, one; Salford, two; Lockwood, near Huddersfield, two; Congregational Union of Scotland, two; Norwich (old meeting), four; Norfolk Conference of Ministers, four; Norfolk and Norwich Religious Liberty Society, two; &c., &c.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—On Wednesday, the Rev. John Burnet, of Camberwell, delivered the first of two lectures on Church Establishments, at the Concert-hall, Lord Nelson-street. Mr. Richard Johnson was called to the chair, and, on the platform and in other parts of the meeting, we observed the following gentlemen:—The Rev. J. Tunstall, the Rev. W. Rogers, Mr. James Stitt, Dr. Roche, Mr. G. Medley, Mr. S. Stitt, Rev. Mr. Hacking, Rev. Mr. Appleford, Rev. Mr. Graham, Rev. Dr. Cox, of London, Mr. Thomas Blackburn, Mr. Alfred King, Mr. Thomas Urquhart, and Mr. S. B. Jackson. The subject of the lecture was, "State-churches opposed to the Word of God." The lecturer argued that neither under the patriarchal, the Jewish, nor the Christian dispensation, was State-churches sanctioned. He was listened to with marked attention throughout; and, as it is impossible to do justice to his lecture in a brief notice, we shall give a full report of it in the *Mercury* of Tuesday next. At the conclusion of the lecture, Dr. Cox, of London, addressed the meeting, and suggested the propriety of sending a deputation to the triennial convention of the British Anti-state-church Society, which will be held in London on the 4th of next month. On the motion of the Rev. Mr. Hacking, seconded by Mr. G. Medley, Mr. Charles Robertson and Mr. Thomas Urquhart were appointed deputies. Thanks having been voted to the chairman, the proceedings terminated. Last night, the Rev. John Burnet delivered a second lecture; subject, "State-churches inconsistent with good Government: the educational scheme an illustration." We shall, also, give a report of this lecture on Tuesday.—*Liverpool Mercury* of Friday.

CHURCH-RATE SEIZURES IN LEICESTER.—On Thursday, the police-officers of this town, armed with distress warrants, entered the dwellings of several of the inhabitants of the parish of St. Martin; and, in the name of the Church seized the following articles for church-rates:—From Mr. D. D. Slade (rate £1 10s.) a mahogany dressing-table and an American clock, value £4 8s.; from Mr. J. F. Winks, (rate £1 4s.) eleven reams of paper, value £3; from Mr. William Baines, (rate £1 8s. 6d.) six copper tea-kettles and five water-cans, value £3 8s. 6d.; from Messrs. W. and G. Baines, (rate £5 15s.) two dozen of caps, two dozen of hats, and eight dozen of stockings, value £11 12s. from Mr. John Manning (rate £4 4s.) 214lbs. of cheese, and five hams weighing 57lbs., value £8 7s. 7d.; from Mr. James Shardlow, (rate £2 11s.) ten copper tea-kettles, four watering-pans, two water-buckets, and one water-can, value £4 19s.; from Mr. Thomas Sharpe, (rate £3 15s.) five-and-a-quarter yards of tweed, forty-four yards of cotton cord, and a quantity of blue pilot cloth, value £8 19s. 7d.; from Mr. John West, (rate £2 1s. 6d.) a mahogany table, four chairs, a warming-pan, wash-stand, pair of steel-yards, three saws, one cleaver, two pair of scales, and twenty weights, value £5 10s.—Messrs. J. W. Rose and W. S. Lockwood were the gentlemen who, as churchwardens, had to commit these legalized burglaries in their fellow-parishioners' houses in the sacred name of religion. We do not envy them their task. One of the seizures, that from Mr. Manning's, appears to us enormous, viz., £8 7s. 7d. worth of provisions, all of which could be sold at market-prices, for a rate of £4 2s. 1.—*Leicester Mercury.*

SCOTTISH BOARD OF DISSENTERS.—On Thursday evening a social meeting of the above Board was held in the Trades-hall, to receive a deputation from Edinburgh. The members of the deputation were:—Mr. James Peddie, W.S., Mr. Gregg, Secretary, and Bailie Dun-

can. Robert Kettle, Esq., occupied the chair; and on the platform we observed the Revs. Dr. Kidston, Taylor, and M'Farlane; W. P. Paton, Esq., Bailie M'Kinlay, and other influential laymen. Dr. M'Farlane asked a blessing, and a service of tea being received, Mr. Borland returned thanks. Mr. Peddie then explained the nature and design of the Society, and Mr. Gregg went over its proceedings since 1834, specifying the various cases in which it had done good service in the cause of Dissenters. It appears that, hitherto, the *locale* of the Board has been the city of Edinburgh; but it is now proposed that a branch be established in Glasgow, to raise funds, and take an interest in proceedings. Though many were not aware of a subscription being proposed, about £70 was subscribed at the meeting, and a committee of thirteen gentlemen, ministers and laymen, appointed to further the objects of the Board in Glasgow.—*Glasgow Times.*

A PROJECT IS ON FOOT FOR RESTORING LAY TITHES TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—It is set forth in a circular signed by Lord John Manners, Mr. William Wyndham Malet, Vicar of Ardeley in Hertfordshire, and by other clergymen and gentlemen. The object is to provide for spiritual destitution by means more certain than the Additional Curates Fund and Pastoral Aid Societies. The movement began in 1845; subscriptions have been received; owners of inappropriate tithes have expressed willingness to cede them at a sacrifice; and it is proposed to establish a public Board, to be called "the Tithe Restitution Trust for the Church in England and Wales"; the whole episcopal body acting as a "Council of Direction and Advice" in the appropriation of restored tithes.

CHURCH AND STATE.—ANOTHER CHALLENGE.—In a letter in the *Norfolk News* of Saturday, signed Edward Wilson, Topcroft Rectory, Bungay, Suffolk, the writer says:—

SIR: The discussion now pending on the connection between Church and State is of the deepest interest and importance,—one which ought to be calmly and temperately conducted as by men earnestly seeking the truth in the fear of the Lord,—one in which railing and personal recrimination should have no part.

Platform harangues can never produce a satisfactory result, nor can public *vis-à-vis* disputation; for the opponent who may really have the worst can easily so shift his ground, and cover his defeat, as to avoid the necessity of yielding.

The only fair and effectual method, as I conceive, to bring the truth fairly before the public, is, by controversy in writing, under certain conditions, to be honourably observed by both parties.

I beg of you, therefore, to convey to any or all of the Dissenters engaged in the present discussion my challenge:—

1. That they, or I, as they please, shall commence with one distinct proposition, supported by the best arguments we may have at command.
2. That the respondent shall reply to one argument, or to one head maintained under that proposition.
3. That this shall be thoroughly canvassed, until one of the opponents shall be unable to contend further therein.
4. That the remaining points shall be dealt with *seriatim* in the same manner.
5. That each party shall nominate his umpire, and a moderator be chosen by common consent to decide in case the umpires be unable to agree.
6. That either party be at liberty to print the discussion when terminated.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

REPRESENTATION OF WESTBURY.—We have great pleasure in stating that both candidates having at length terminated a careful and perfect canvass of the borough, there remains not the slightest doubt of Mr. Wilson's return, by a large majority; so much so that it is generally believed that Mr. Phipps will not persevere in going to the poll, when the day of election arrives.—*Wills Independent.* [Mr. James Wilson, is, as most of our readers are doubtless aware, the able editor of the *Economist*, and he is an opponent of the State support, both of religion and education, besides being an advocate of numerous Radical reforms. His return will be a great acquisition to the country, and to the movement party in particular. He is cordially supported by the Dissenting electors of the borough.]

MR. CRESSWELL, M.P., retires at the close of the present Parliament from the representation of North Northumberland, and rumour already strongly points to Sir Matthew Ridley, Bart., as his probable successor.—*Gateshead Observer.*

MR. WARBURTON, M.P. for Kendal, having signified his attention to retire from Parliament at the general election, Mr. George Carr Glyn (the chairman of the London and North Western Railway Company), has been accepted by the Liberals as a candidate for the vacancy. The requisition to Mr. Glyn has, we (*Kendal Mercury*) are informed, already received the signatures of considerably more than a majority of the electors. Mr. Glyn is a thorough-going Whig, and in favour of the Government education scheme. He is opposed to the endowment of the Irish Roman Catholic priesthood out of the national revenues.

LEICESTER.—The *Leicester Mercury* states, that Mr. Gardner, of Manchester, once a member of the Complete Suffrage Council, is a candidate for the representation of that town.

REPRESENTATION OF ANDOVER.—Everything seems ripe for a fair stand-up fight at Andover, at the next general election. Mr. J. N. Fellowes, of Hurstborne-park, the young son of the Hon. Newton Fellowes, and who will be the future Earl of Portsmouth, has issued his address to the electors. He is a Whig. Mr. Etwell will stand with him. On the other side there will be Mr. Cubitt, the builder, and Mr. J. H. Coles, of Middleton-house.

THE NEW PIER AT HUNGERFORD BRIDGE was opened on Wednesday to the public, toll free. The only access to the steam-boats is now from the Middlesex side; and the floating pier is to be removed forthwith.

Upon hearing of the sufferings of the Irish, the Sultan caused to be handed to the Honourable Mr. Wellesley £1,000, to be disposed of by him in the best way towards their alleviation.

THE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT.

CATHOLIC PENAL LAWS.

On Wednesday, at the early sitting, the order of the day was the committee on the Roman Catholic Relief Bill; and a discussion was revived on the whole measure and its principle. This went over ground which had been beaten in the previous debates; any novelty that there was being rather in the manner than the matter of the treatment, and that but slight. The general measure was opposed by Sir ROBERT INGLIS, Mr. PLUMPTRE, Mr. SPOONER, Mr. FINCH, Mr. NEWDEGATE, Mr. GOULBURN, Mr. LAW, Mr. ESTCOURT. It was supported by the Earl of ARUNDEL and SURREY, Lord HARRY VANE, Mr. SHEIL, Lord JOHN MANNERS, Sir JOHN EASTHOPE, Sir GEORGE GREY, Mr. JOHN COLLETT, Lord SANDON, and Mr. WATSON.

The debate was opened by Sir ROBERT INGLIS. He resisted the bill because its direct tendency was to "unprotestantize" England, and it would materially shake that constitution which requires the Sovereign to be a member of the Reformed Church of England. Remove that distinction, and you abolish the right of the present branch to occupy the throne: every one knows that it is a younger branch. Sir Robert dwelt much on the declaration against the Roman Catholic Church which is made by the Sovereign, as an insuperable impediment to the passing of the bill. He glanced at historical facts to show, that for three centuries the Church of Rome has been the inexorable, the constant enemy of Protestantism, the unchangeable foe of the Church of England. Within the last fifty years its pretensions have been as great as ever. That Church canonized Pius the Fifth for his "services;" he absolved the people of England from their allegiance to their Sovereign: his name, and the name of Gregory the Seventh appear to this day in the breviaries. The same Pope dismissed no fewer than a hundred bishops from their sees because they refused to comply with his concordat. Did the House forget what the Jesuits had been doing in France, Switzerland, and Germany? Even in England at this moment the Church of Rome is raising obstacles to the peace of society by her opposition on the subject of mixed marriages. Sir Robert called on Lord John Russell to remember the dying exhortations of his illustrious ancestor—"not to assist the progress of Popery;" and he concluded by moving that the bill be committed that day six months.

To this speech the Earl of ARUNDEL and SURREY replied; chiefly contending that persecution was not peculiar to the Church of Rome, but to a past age. Passages could be pointed out in the Old Testament which might seem to justify persecution: he alluded to the wars of the Israelites to exterminate the nations that stood between them and the land of promise. But it is now admitted that persecution and force have never availed for the advancement of religion. He agreed with Sir Robert Inglis that the Church of Rome was antagonistic to Protestantism:—

So it was; and so it would be as long as the world should last, or till Protestantism itself should be extinguished [Ironical cheers from the Opposition]. He could illustrate his views by an incident which had happened to himself. He was once on the plains of Marathon, directing his attention to the ruins of a Grecian temple, when an eastern stranger stood by his side, lost in reflection whilst contemplating that noble temple. In the neighbourhood from which the Persian force had been expelled he had seen the descendant of the conquered gazing upon the ruins of a mighty empire which remained in poetry alone; and he asked himself whether the Catholic or the Protestant faith should stand at the last hour: and that reflection led his feeble and uninstructed mind to the same result as history and argument had brought that of Mr. Macaulay, when, looking through to long vista of ages, he fancied some stranger from New Zealand seated on a broken arch of London bridge and contemplating the ruins of St. Paul's, whilst the successor of St. Peter was wielding with undiminished force the power which has been so long before conferred upon the Prince of Apostles by the son of Jehovah and of the Hebrew woman.

Mr. PLUMPTRE endeavoured to represent Lord Arundel as justifying persecution; and he opposed the bill as part and parcel of that unextinguishable contest carried on at Rome. Lord HARRY VANE defended Lord Arundel from Mr. Plumptre's misconception; and Lord ARUNDEL explicitly disclaimed the sentiment imputed to him.

Mr. SPOONER called to mind that one peculiar commission given to the Jews was to exterminate idolaters and idolatry: there is a great deal of idolatry mixed up with the forms and ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church. Any measure acknowledging an authority competing with that of the Sovereign would be unconstitutional. He would suppose that a bill were issued, giving orders to Roman Catholic priests:—

Now, a few weeks ago, a young gentleman, the son of a friend of his, was persuaded to leave the Protestant and join the Roman Catholic Church. His father found among his books one entitled, "Consolation and Encouragement for the Soul, in which it was laid down that 'he who obeys his director is freed from responsibility to God for what he has done.' A man who held that doctrine was absolved from all individual responsibility. The mandate of a priest would override considerations of parental authority, of what was due to the Sovereign, and to one's country.

It was his firm conviction that the bill was looked to with intense anxiety on the part of the Roman Catholic Church, and that it would be hailed by them as another step in abandonment of the line of protection drawn by the bill of 1829. He was one of those who had been willing to make the concession of 1829; but if the discussion were to come over again nothing would induce him to give his consent to such a bill. If the extinction of Protestantism had been talked of at that time, as it was at present, would Parliament ever have consented to pass that act?

Mr. SHEIL endeavoured to convince the House as to the modesty and safety of the measure; showing that it makes no greater change than the present law requires:—

Any native of Ireland who enters a religious order is liable to banishment in the first instance and transportation afterwards; and any person who initiates an individual into a religious order is liable to the same penalty. Now, I think it must strike the common sense and justice of the

House, that these laws require, if not total abrogation, at least most essential alteration. In point of fact, they are inoperative. He read from the *Irish Almanack and Official Directory* a long list of Roman Catholic dignitaries and of religious orders in Ireland and England; proving that the law is inoperative. And yet under this law Dr. Doyle might have been transported, and Father Mathew sent to preach sobriety in Van Diemen's Land or New South Wales. Then, Sir, the question arises, ought this law to stand? or, if it is to stand, for what purpose is it to be retained?

There is much talk of the "Jesuits:" at least the modern Jesuits of Ireland have been blameless:—

What have been their offences? They have established their college in the south, where the best literature is taught in the best way; they have their large school in Dublin, for the gratuitous education of the poor; they have also erected a church, the architecture of which is nobler than that of any church of the Establishment, where you hear good music, and where there is good preaching by these Jesuits, in the manner becoming their dignity and their calling. These are their acts. Can you adduce a single instance of a Jesuit having interfered in politics during the last thirty years? During that period Ireland was agitated, convulsed by great political questions. I defy you to show a single speech by a Jesuit at the Catholic Association, or a single political tract published by them. I never saw a Jesuit at the Roman Catholic Association. I don't believe that the Repeal or the monster meetings were ever attended by Jesuits.

The exclusion of Roman Catholics from the Lord Chancellorship of Ireland, which has nothing to do with the Church, was another of Mr. Sheil's topics.

LORD JOHN MANNERS said it was now nearly twenty years since the measure of 1829 was passed, and he had in vain requested any gentleman to point out to him one single instance in which its so-called safeguards had been acted upon.

MR. GOULBURN resisted the measure, because he would not disturb the solemn contract of 1829. The bill would encourage further innovation: for instance, the only member of the Government who had spoken in this debate talked of making the Irish Chancellorship open to Roman Catholics.

The debate was wound up with a reply by MR. WATSON, in defence of his bill. Its principle was, that no one should be persecuted on account of his religion. It sought to repeal penalties which are only odious without being operative or conducive to religion; and, if it appeared that the bill was likely to have ulterior and unintended effects, such contingencies would be provided against by alteration in Committee.

On a division, Sir Robert Inglis's amendment was carried by 158 to 119; majority, 39. The bill, therefore, was lost.

OPENING OF THE NEW HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords met on Thursday in its portion of the new "Palace;" and certainly the apartment allotted for the deliberations of the Upper House is a gorgeous one. Possession was taken without any departure from the usual routine: but the body of the House was well filled with peers, and the occasion drew a crowd of strangers, all anxious to witness the interior actually in legislative occupation. So far as arrangement goes, the "effects" are disposed precisely as in the narrow, inconvenient chamber which the peers have just quitted—that is, the throne is at the upper end of the House, the interior is occupied with the woollen and the table in the centre, and there are five rows of benches on either side, and these are covered with scarlet morocco leather. The doors by which the Commons, when summoned in state, pass to the bar, with the Speaker at their head, are of "burnished brass, formed of delicate tracery, in the style of the florid Gothic;" and the apartment itself is ninety by forty-five feet, and is forty feet high. The ceiling is divided by massive carved and gilt ribs into compartments, each of which is sub-divided into little panels, enriched with heraldic devices. Six lofty windows on each side, filled with stained glass, admit light; the lower portion of the walls are decorated with carved oak, the upper elaborately gilt; an elegant and light gallery runs round the building; and the throne, with attendant chairs on either side for Prince Albert and the Prince of Wales, are specimens of "cunning workmanship." The throne is surmounted by a gorgeous canopy; and above it is the only fresco which has yet been executed—Dyce's Baptism of Ethelbert by St. Augustine. The compartments for the other frescoes are at present covered over with damask. The general effect of the spacious, lofty, and enriched hall can only be appreciated by personal inspection. Complaint was made on Thursday of the difficulty of hearing; and the ornamented ceiling and walls, with their broken surfaces, appear unfavourable for the distinct transmission of sound. But some allowance must be made for the "raw" state of the building. After the House had sat some time, and the atmosphere had become sufficiently rarefied, the voices of speakers were somewhat more distinctly heard.

Prayers were read by the Bishop of St. Asaph.

Shortly after the Lord Chancellor had taken his seat on the woolsack,

LORD CAMPBELL rose for the purpose of addressing the House. His lordship, however, was, by an accident, deprived of the honour of being the first person to bring forward any business in the new House, for before he could commence his address, the Usher of the Black Rod announced a message from the House of Commons, whereupon Mr. Greene and other members were called in, and brought up several bills. This was the first public business transacted in the new House of Lords.

LORD BROUGHAM rose to present a petition, but the noise in the House rendered his lordship's voice inaudible. He said, addressing himself to the bar: My lords, I shall be under the absolute necessity of having the bar cleared, in order that the business of the House may be proceeded with [a laugh]. My lords, I beg to move that the bar be cleared. I shall certainly persist in that motion if my warning has no effect. I am about to ask a question of the Government, but if they cannot hear my question, and I cannot hear their answer, I may as well let it alone [loud laughter from the members of the House of Commons who were present]. The noble lord then went on to state, that the poor rates in various parishes had been more than doubled

since the 1st of December, and that a proportion of nine out of ten of the persons receiving relief were Irish paupers. Last Sunday, 3,714 persons had arrived in the port of Liverpool, and on the next day 2,386 persons; making an aggregate of about 6,000 persons. The question which the noble lord proposed to found upon the subject did not, however, reach the gallery.

After some unimportant business the House adjourned.

SUNDAY TRADING IN THE METROPOLIS.

On Thursday, MR. HINDLEY moved for a Select Committee on the subject of Sunday trading in the metropolis. His object was, not that the Committee should inquire into the general subject of trading on the Sabbath, but into the laws which prohibit such trading, and which are said to be extensively violated. Complaints are made from all quarters, that the laws are broken by unscrupulous tradesmen; that the competition compels even those who would obey the laws to break them; and that the result is very unfair to well-disposed tradespeople.

The motion was opposed by MR. HUME; who did not see its precise object. Did Mr. Hindley mean to prevent poor families from having their dinner baked on the Sunday; or to prevent the man from being shaved on the Sunday who could not spare time on a week-day? Gentlemen had from time to time sought a character for superior sanctity by bringing measures of this sort before Parliament; but he had never found that, in point of fact, they were any better men or better Christians than an old sinner such as himself [laughter].

The motion was also opposed by MR. ESCOTT, DR. BOWRING, MR. W. WILLIAMS, MR. WAKLEY, CAPTAIN PEACHELL, and MR. CHAPLIN. The suppression of Sunday trading was advocated by MR. HAWES, MR. W. COWPER, MR. ALDERMAN COPELAND. MR. MUNTZ would support no suppressive measures directed against the poorer classes. Colonel SIBTHORPE doubted the practicability of legislation on the subject.

Sir George GREY could not refuse inquiry into laws which were in the statute-book, but inoperative: if they were unnecessary they ought not to remain there; if desirable, they ought to be made effective.

On a division the motion was carried by 53 to 19.

THE POOR RELIEF (IRELAND) BILL.

The principal business of the House of Commons, on Friday night, was the third reading of the Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill. The discussion was an exceedingly cursory reiteration of old remarks upon old topics. Captain CORRY began, upon the danger of out-door relief. MR. FITZSTEPHEN FRENCH and some Irish members touched upon the wants of their country. LORD JOSCELYN and SIR WALTER JAMES alluded to the auxiliary measures which should accompany a poor-law, especially an organized system of emigration. MR. POULETT SCROPE deplored the shortcomings of the bill; and it was assailed altogether by SIR WILLIAM VERNER. The bill, more especially out-door relief, was vigorously defended by MR. VILLIERS, in a speech of no great length, but showing how a systematic out-door relief would be in every way far less costly and dangerous than the out-door relief which actually exists in the shape of universal mendicancy. The bill was also defended by SIR GEORGE GREY, MR. LABOUCHERE, LORD JOHN RUSSELL, and MR. SHARMAN CRAWFORD. MR. MORGAN JOHN O'CONNELL attacked Lord George Bentinck's attempted clauses to make tenants pay the rates; and they again were defended by LORD GEORGE BENTINCK and MR. DISRAELI. MR. GOULBURN admonishingly observed, that in Ireland the question is not so much the merits of any law as the mode in which the law is executed. Captain FITZMAURICE wound up the debate by a homily on the misconduct of the Irish people—their grasping at English relief, their crimes. He applied to them the exhortation of the little girl in Miss Edgeworth's tale of "Simple Susan"—"Pig, take a spoon." To show the state of crime in Tipperary, he mentioned what had happened on the estate of his brother Lord Orkney: last year his brother's servant, while standing at the hall-door, received eleven bullets in his body; and although Lord Orkney has done the utmost to relieve the distress of those around him, he has even recently had notices threatening his life. How can it be expected that any man should place himself or his family in such a pandemonium as Tipperary?—In fine the bill was read a third time and passed.

The Landed Property (Ireland) Bill was read a third time. Ineffectual attempts were made by Colonel RAWDON and LORD GEORGE BENTINCK to extend its provisions; but they were decisively negatived, and the bill was passed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.—On Tuesday, MR. WALPOLE obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law for the registration of voters; the object of which is to prevent the wholesale objections which were frequently made to the qualifications of electors, and to give such of them as had once been placed on the registry a right to remain there, without being perpetually liable to frivolous objections. To accomplish that object, the machinery of registration would have to be materially altered.

COST OF THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—MR. HUME moved for a variety of returns relative to the cost of erecting the new Houses of Parliament. MR. H. BAILLIE was very glad that these returns had been moved for. The original estimate of erecting the new Houses of Parliament was £800,000; the expense already incurred was £1,000,000; and he understood that it would be nearly £2,000,000 before they were completed. The returns were ordered.

QUAKERS' AND JEWS' MARRIAGES.—MR. CHRISTIE, on the same evening, moved for leave to bring in a bill to remove doubts as to Quakers' and Jews' marriages which had been solemnized before the 2nd of March, 1847. Sir G. GREY, in giving his assent to the introduction of this bill, wished to prevent any notion from getting abroad that he entertained doubts as to the validity of such marriages. Leave granted.

COSTS OF PRIVATE BILLS.—MR. HUME moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend an act to establish

a taxation of costs on private bills in that House. The hon. member mentioned some of the enormous costs to which parties connected with private bills before that House had been subjected, and said, in conclusion, that, if any other reason was wanted to justify the introduction of this bill, he had one which must be decisive, and that was, the preliminary law expenses of the London and York Railway amounted to no less a sum than £432,600. Leave was then given.

JEWS' DISABILITIES.—On Thursday, LORD JOHN RUSSELL, in reply to MR. SPOONER, said that it was not the intention of Government to bring in any specific measure with reference to the laws disabling Jews from sitting in Parliament, but that if any general measure with reference to oaths were introduced, it might form part of that measure, to take out those words in the various oaths which prevented the Jews from holding certain offices or sitting in Parliament.

THE ARMY ENLISTMENT BILL was read a third time, in the House of Commons on Thursday, by a majority of ninety-one to forty-two, and a first time, in the House of Lords, on Friday, without opposition.

ESTATES IN SCOTLAND.—On Friday evening, replying to LORD DUNCAN, MR. RUTHERFORD (Lord Advocate) stated, that Government had under consideration the subject of the sale of encumbered estates in Scotland, with a view to the framing of a bill; and the bill would be introduced this session.

WRECK OF THE "TWEED."—In reply to MR. MUNTZ, LORD JOHN RUSSELL said that the Queen had directed Lord Auckland to express to Don Bernardo Camp, the commander of the Spanish brig "Emilio," who rescued the survivors of the "Tweed," the satisfaction with which her Majesty heard of his conduct; and to propose to him the acceptance of a medal, on which would be recorded the services which he rendered to the survivors of that unfortunate ship. She also directed that a grant of £500 should be made in a manner acceptable to that most gallant officer, to show the deep sense which her Majesty and the Government entertained of his heroic conduct.

GOVERNMENT AND THE WESLEYANS.

On Monday night, in reply to a series of questions from Sir B. HALL,

LORD JOHN RUSSELL made the following explanation:—

In answer to the questions of my hon. friend, I may at once frankly state, that our communications with the Wesleyan body were, so far as I know, not begun by any person authorized on the part of the Government [hear, hear]. A noble friend of mine, whose name, although I have no authority to mention it, I think I may freely state to the House—it was Lord Ashley—understood from some of the Wesleyan body that they were about to enter into resolutions describing the character of the Minutes in a way which he thought was not, in truth, applicable to them. My noble friend, therefore, suggested that it would be better for them to wait, and said he would communicate with Lord Lansdowne, through the Secretary of the Committee of Privy Council, in order to obtain an explanation as to whether the sense they had put upon the Minutes was the correct sense or not. The Secretary to the Committee of Privy Council came to Lord Lansdowne and myself, and asked for our directions upon the subject. We said we should have no hesitation in answering any questions which the Wesleyan body chose to put, in order to guide them to a correct understanding of the Minutes [an ironical cheer]. I do not know that there is any blame to be attached to us for giving that answer [cheers]. One of their questions was—it has not been mentioned by my honourable friend,—Whether persons who held ecclesiastical functions would be eligible to fill the office of pupil-teachers? and the answer we gave to that was, that we considered persons exercising ecclesiastical functions, or holding ecclesiastical offices, would not be eligible as pupil-teachers [hear, hear]. Another question was, Whether the authorized version of the Scriptures would be used in the schools? Upon this subject we informed them, that there was a resolution of the Committee of Privy Council, of the 3rd of December, 1839, in which, referring to previous resolutions, they said that the cases in which they would give assistance to schools would be those cases in which competent provision should be made for the instruction of children in school, the daily reading of a portion of the scriptures forming part of that instruction [hear, hear]. The House is aware that former resolutions and votes of Parliament authorized the Committee of the Privy Council to give aid to schools connected with the National Society, and the British and Foreign School Society, in both of which the authorized version of the scriptures is used; and in using these words, "the daily reading of a portion of the scriptures," it was understood at the time—and I do not know of any different plan since—to intend that the authorized version of the scriptures should be used [hear, hear]. I perfectly remember that in 1839 there was another plan—a plan which was once proposed by the Committee of Council—in which it was intended that the Roman Catholic scholars should be allowed to use the Douay version of the scriptures; and, so intending, the Committee of Council inserted it expressly, in order that the public might know their intentions. Had they, therefore, intended to do the same upon the 3rd of December, they would have stated it as expressly as they stated it upon the previous occasion [hear, hear]. Sir, the next question was, whether the inspectors of Wesleyan schools might be appointed, not from the Wesleyan body, but with the concurrence of the Wesleyan body? The Wesleyans stated they had hitherto received their assistance from the State through the British and Foreign School Society, that it would be far more agreeable to their feelings, as well as to the constitution of their society, if the Committee of education of the Wesleyan body was directly recognized, and that this Committee of education of the Wesleyan body should have the same power of expressing their opinion and their concurrence before the inspector was appointed over their schools which the British and Foreign School Society now enjoy in consequence of the letter of Lord Wharcliffe [hear]. To that proposition, we said we should not object; that we should be ready to place before them the name of the person who was intended to inspect their schools, and that he should be appointed with their concurrence [hear]. With regard to the exclusion of the Roman Catholics, there was no question concerning it in reference to the Wesleyans. As I have stated, the rule which we laid down in 1839 has, I believe, been followed ever since that period. I do not know that there have been any grants to Roman Catholic schools exclusively as such. There may have been grants to schools where the authorized version of the Scriptures was used, and which Roman Catholics have attended; but I do not believe there have been any grants to Roman Catholic schools exclusively as such.

We have made no alteration whatever in that respect. When cases are brought before us, and when the Roman Catholic bishops shall express their view upon the subject, then, I think, will be the time to take into consideration in what manner we can give the advantages emanating from a public grant to the Roman Catholics [hear, hear]. I think, however, there are at present considerable difficulties in the way. Many of their schools are conducted by persons in holy orders. Very considerable difficulty might likewise arise where the Roman Catholic version of the Scriptures was alone used. If Protestant children attended the schools, that might be made use of as a means of proselytism. There are other difficulties attending the subject; but for my own part, I trust, when these difficulties come to be considered, we shall be able to propose to this House a grant to the Roman Catholics as well as the Protestants [hear, hear]. But with regard to the grant of the present year, we do not propose that any part of the £100,000 we shall now proceed to ask for should be applied to Roman Catholic schools. I think we should be able to form a Minute which shall appear to us satisfactory upon this subject; and we should then either propose some additional grant in the class of miscellaneous estimates, or reserve it to be proposed in another session. But as I have said, from 1839 to this time—in the course of those eight years—I do not believe the question has ever arisen, and even now it has not arisen in a direct shape [hear, hear].

THE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SCHEME.

Previous to the commencement of the debate, an immense number of petitions were presented against the Government education measure, and a smaller number in its favour. The list of places alone, from which these petitions emanated, occupies more than a column of the *Morning Chronicle*, and we regret that the length of our report of the debate prevents us from copying it.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL then, after moving the reading of the order of the day, that the House resolve itself into committee of supply on the miscellaneous estimates, proceeded to explain the scheme which the Government had in view, in demanding a grant of £100,000 for the purposes of education. The noble lord commenced his statement by commenting, in terms of considerable severity, upon the conduct of those who had been guilty of gross exaggerations in the statements which they had put forth in reference to the views and intentions of the Government, and who had attempted to overawe the House by summoning many of its members to their meetings, and endeavouring to coerce them into giving votes in opposition to the Government scheme, on pain of losing their seats in Parliament, at the approaching general election. He then proceeded to answer the objection which had been urged against the scheme by some of its opponents—based upon the alleged unconstitutionality of the grant for education, and of the board by which it was administered; after which he briefly surveyed the progress of State education in this country, adverting to the increase which had from time to time been effected in the annual grant for that purpose, until last year it reached the sum of £100,000. It had long been his opinion that they could never efficiently promote the interests of education in this country until they improved the prospects of the schoolmaster. It was necessary to do this in order to ensure the services of men of talent and ability in the business of teaching, there being, as he believed, no profession of more importance than that of training the minds of the youth of the working-classes of the country. In improving the condition and character of the schoolmaster, it was necessary to keep in view another proposition, with respect to which no grant was proposed to be made this year, but with respect to which there might, in future years, be some expenditure, namely, that of granting pensions to such retiring schoolmasters as were worn out with the business of teaching. Amongst the objections which went to the whole foundation of the grant was this, that it was altogether a mistake for the State to give any assistance for the support of education. This objection would equally apply to the *Regium Donum* in Ireland, and to the support given to ministers of religion in Scotland, as well as to every other grant made by the State for religious as well as secular instruction. He did not wish, on that occasion, to enter upon the large question which was raised by this objection, but would content himself with saying, that whilst it was the business of the State to imprison offenders—to transport, and sometimes capitally to punish them, he could not assent to the proposition, that it had nothing to do with the prevention of crime, or with the education and enlightenment of the people. Another objection to the scheme was based upon the assumption that there was no necessity for the State to interfere, that voluntary efforts were sufficient to meet the educational exigencies of the country, and that the people of England were already sufficiently supplied with all the appliances of education. He wished he could agree with those who urged this objection, but it was scarcely necessary to refer to statistics to prove its unsoundness and fallacy. The noble lord then referred to some prison returns, to show the untenable nature of such an objection, and stated that it appeared to him to be a "shocking thing," that whilst they did give instruction they did not give it, in many cases, until the parties receiving it had become implicated in crime. Such was the instruction communicated in our prisons. A reverend divine, while attending one of the meetings held in London in opposition to the scheme, was asked by some one in the body of the meeting, if "a guide-post was not better at the beginning of a man's life than a gibbet at the end of it." The reply, he admitted, was quick, but not correct. "What," said the reverend gentleman, "if the guide-post lead to the gibbet?" But no one had a right to regard the scheme of education now propounded by the Government as such a guide-post as was here indicated. Another argument urged by some of the opponents of the scheme was, that there were in every great community large masses of the population steeped in vice and crime, whom it was impossible to reach or reform. He could not consent to the proposition, and had every reason to believe that a well-considered scheme of education, if it would not reach all, would favourably influence some portion of the unfortunate classes alluded to. The noble lord then, after expressing his regret that efforts had not been made at the commencement of the century to re-unite in the same schools the various classes of Churchmen and Dissenters, adverted to the specific objections to the scheme, some of which he admitted to be of a formidable character, but the majority of which he proceeded to refute. There was no objection, as to the Church undertaking the education of the poor people, or of the Church arrogating to itself the right of educating people of the religion of the state. All that was now

intended was, that in schools belonging to the Church of England the liturgy should be taught, but that in schools belonging to Dissenters there should be no such requirement. This was not a system of compulsory, but of religious liberty, and one with which the Dissenters should feel satisfied. If under the proposed scheme a larger sum should go to the Church than to the other schools, that would make no difference as to principle, but merely as to amount. He did not see why the Dissenters should refuse to partake of the grant, on the ground that a portion of the money was to be given to the Church of England schools. This was not a system of State education, but a system which merely came in aid of voluntary efforts in behalf of education. It was merely intended to aid existing schools, without imposing any terms upon any schools which were not in perfect conformity with the rules and regulations which the founders and managers of those schools had already established. He could not agree with those who held that it would have been better if the State had confined itself solely to the promotion of secular education, and detailed his reasons for disagreeing with them. Nor did the Government intend to make the schoolmaster a State officer, whose business it would be to attend to the secular instruction of his pupils, but who should have no concern whatever in their religious education. He maintained that the State would be negligent of the greater half of its duty if it entirely disregarded the religious instruction of the youth of the country. Many would construe the entire disregard of religion in schools into the presence of irreligion, and object to them on that account. If what the Government proposed was founded upon what was already established—if it was impossible to propose any other scheme which would enable them to carry into practical effect any great system of education, and if, as it was urged by Dr. Vaughan and others, it was useless to propose such a scheme, because it was sure to fail—the question which he had to ask the House was, whether it was now prepared to go with the Government, and to grant the sum of money demanded, to be disposed of according to the Minutes of Council, or whether it was disposed to refuse that grant, and even to go the length of sustaining Mr. Duncombe, and passing a vote of censure upon the Government for even proposing such a grant. Whatever application the Government might deem it their duty hereafter to make for a grant in favour of Roman Catholic schools, it was not intended to extend any part of the £100,000 to these schools. If aid should hereafter be given to Roman Catholic schools, the greatest caution should be exercised in extending them such aid. It would not do for the Government to step forward to the support of monastic schools, or such as are connected with monasteries in this country. Of the half million which had been expended within the last few years for the purposes of education, not one shilling, he believed, had been given to purely Roman Catholic schools; and, with regard to the £100,000 which was now demanded, whatever might be hereafter done in favour of the Roman Catholics, it did not appear desirable to throw an additional stumbling-block in the way of the proposed Government scheme, by departing, with respect to that grant, from the existing Minutes of Council. To regard the proposed scheme as one tending to the increase of Government patronage, was as much to give way to idle apprehensions, as it was erroneous to brand it as an unconstitutional interference with the legitimate functions of Parliament. The Government did not seek to promote or encourage any rule whereby the children of Dissenting parents were not to be allowed to go to the Church schools unless they submitted to learn the Catechism, and to attend the church on Sunday. He did not believe that the Church itself gained any advantage from such a rule. The rule of the Wesleyan body in this respect was a much wiser and more charitable one, and did not tend to the diminution of their numbers or influence. Imperfect as the scheme was, he now begged to submit it to the favourable consideration of the House; and whatever might be the result of his doing so, it would be a consolation to him to reflect, that he had made an attempt to diminish the empire of ignorance, and to raise the people of this country to a prominent place in the scale of virtue and intelligence amongst the nations of the earth. The noble lord then resumed his seat amid loud and prolonged cheers.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE (who was heard at first very indistinctly, owing to the noise occasioned by members leaving the House) said, that in all his Parliamentary experience he never recollected the Prime Minister of this country paying so great a compliment to the notice of an individual member of the House, and particularly so humble an individual as himself, as by urging against, and, if possible, prejudicing in the minds of the House the motion to which he had given notice. The noble lord might call, if he liked, his alarm on the subject "idle apprehension," but his consolation was, that his apprehensions were shared by thousands and millions of his fellow-countrymen. The noble lord had spoken of his motion as if it were a vote of censure. If he chose to consider it in that light he might do so, for if the noble lord asked him whether he had any confidence in the self-elected tribunal called the Education Committee of the Privy Council, his (Mr. T. Duncombe's) answer was, that he had no such confidence. However the great question involved in his motion might suffer in his hands, yet he felt that if he failed it was not because there was anything unreasonable in the request which he was about to make, or contrary to Parliamentary usage. He felt that if the motion failed of success, it would fail because of the difficulty which an independent member of the House must have in coping with the Ministerial influence which he knew was to be brought to bear against this humble motion of his, and also because of the difficulty which he had to contend against by reason of those agreements and understandings, if not actual and positive compacts, which had been made both with members of the Established Church, and with a certain portion of the Dissenting community—compacts and understandings which he would say were most disgraceful to those who made them, and particularly when made by her Majesty's Liberal ministry in the face of their former opinions and avowed principles. If he failed, he should have the consolation of believing that he should have the support and sympathy of a great portion of his fellow-countrymen. Since he had given his notice the other day, he had received communications from all parts of the country in reference to it, asking him to persevere in his motion, and asserting that the House would betray its duty if they did not grant some inquiry and some information beyond that which the noble lord had

given, before it voted away so large a portion of the public money. These communications, also, expressed the regret of those who made them that he did not give his notice earlier. His excuse was that he waited till the last moment, in order to see whether some member of greater weight in the House than himself might not give some notice of an opposition to the proposal of her Majesty's Ministers. Let it, however, be recollected by the House, that, if he had not given this notice, probably only one single discussion would have taken place, and the House would have been called upon to give at once vitality to a scheme which, notwithstanding all that had fallen from the noble lord, he (Mr. T. Duncombe) was prepared to maintain was eminently dangerous to civil and religious liberty, calculated unduly to increase the power of the Crown, and supersede the constitutional functions of Parliament; and, also, that it was a scheme extremely unjust to that portion of the community who would be compelled to contribute towards its maintenance, but which would derive no benefit whatever from its establishment. Whatever the scheme might be, it would not attain the objects which it sought to accomplish, and it would carry discord and dissension into every locality in England which it entered. The noble lord had stated that intimidation had been used to overawe members of the House from voting in favour of the grant proposed by the Government. He (Mr. T. Duncombe) recollected that, in 1839, when a former scheme of the Government, which was issued in April of the same year, had been opposed, a Minute was issued abandoning the scheme brought forward in April, and in that Minute it was stated that her Majesty's Ministers had postponed going on with the scheme because they could not reconcile the differences which prevailed on the subject in the country, and that they, therefore, waited till there was a greater concurrence of public opinion on the subject. Now, he asked the House whether there was a concurrence of public opinion in favour of the present scheme? The noble lord might think himself strong in having bought off the opposition of the Wesleyans, and he might feel himself strong in the support of a portion of the Established Church, for he (Mr. T. Duncombe) denied that the whole of the Established Church were in favour of the scheme. He would quote a petition which he had presented that evening, proceeding from thirteen clergymen of the diocese of York, and who were only beginning to understand this plan of the Government. He agreed entirely in that petition, and with the remarks that were made. The petition was accompanied with a letter, in which the writer stated, that the more he conversed with the clergy the more he found, that while some few were content to acquiesce in the Government plan, the majority were quite in the dark about it. The House had witnessed the petitions which had been presented against this scheme, and also those which had been presented in its favour, principally by the noble lord (Lord J. Russell); and he thought it desirable that the House should know from what quarter these latter petitions came. They proceeded chiefly from ministers of the Established Church; and he would show how they had been got up. There was a circular purporting to proceed from the "Committee for Supporting the Government Scheme of Education: chairman, Lord Ashley," which was dated "April 6, 1847," recommending, in effect, that every person in every village was to be made a petition agent for the noble lord. The petitions were to be ready cut and dry for the Privy Council, according to Dr. Kaye's pattern [a laugh]. The letter went on to say, "the petitions may be sent to the member for the county or the borough; or they may be sent, prepaid, to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell, M.P., who has kindly consented to take charge of them" [laughter]. This letter was signed "Henry Hughes, M.A., incumbent of All Saints, Gordon-square, Honorary Secretary." He was very much mistaken if Mr. Hughes remained the incumbent there; he was sure to get promotion [laughter]. But now came the postscript. "I have authority to state that, under the existing Minutes, the authorized version of the Scriptures must be read in all the schools which receive the aid of the Government." The honourable gentleman continued: Thus Roman Catholics would be excluded from all participation in the grant. The noble lord had talked a good deal about the destitute condition, as to education, of different classes of the community. Why had he not taken any notice of the Roman Catholics [hear, hear] whom he was going to exclude? He held in his hand an extract from the *Catholic Directory* for 1846, which stated that there were in London, in the northern, southern, central, and western districts, no less than 65,307 poor persons requiring gratuitous education. Out of these 30,207 were receiving such education, while there remained 35,100 unprovided for. Now he should like to know why these persons had not attracted the noble lord's attention, as well as other classes of the community. But was their's the only exclusion. Was this the only compromise of the noble lord? Was this the only arrangement effected through the medium of the Rev. Mr. Hughes, incumbent of All Saints, St. Pancras? What would the House think of a compromise between the Wesleyan body and the Government, and also at the expense of the Roman Catholics? They had seen the correspondence published between Lord Lansdowne and Sir Culling E. Smith. They had seen Mr. Langdale's letter applying for information, but no direct or positive answer was received up to the last moment as to the present or future intentions of the Government with regard to the exclusion of Roman Catholics. He held in his hand, however, a communication which would explain all, which he believed to be a perfectly correct account of what had taken place between the Government and the Wesleyans—an account transmitted to him by a gentleman, who stated in his letter that he considered the conduct of the Government to be particularly base [a laugh]. Here was the history of the transaction. The honourable gentleman proceeded to read, nearly as follows:—

About a fortnight since the Centenary Board of the Wesleyan Society called a meeting of the Committee of Education and Privileges of that body. It was convened for the purpose of framing resolutions expressive of the opposition which, at a previous meeting, it had been determined to offer to the Government plan of education. The proceedings were in progress when the meeting was requested to receive a communication from Lord Ashley. The noble lord was admitted, and stated himself to be commissioned by Government to negotiate with them, in the hope that he might be able to induce them to acquiesce in the proposed measure, on the basis that the Minute of Council should be so interpreted as to make the use of the entire Scriptures, or the authorized version of the Scriptures, compulsory in all schools receiving Government aid, by which means, it was stated by the noble lord, Roman Catholic schools would be excluded from participation in the grant—an object which could not fail of being agreeable to the Wesleyan body. It would be thus observed (the honourable gentleman continued parenthetically) that the negotiations originated, not with the Wesleyans, but with the Government. He continued: Well, the communication having had the desired effect on the minds of the committee, it was resolved upon to adjourn their deliberations to Manchester, in order that they might there meet with and have the opinion of many of the leading men of the society. Meetings were accordingly held in that town on the 8th and 9th of April, when it was determined to open a direct communication with the Committee of Council on Education. An interview took place accordingly at Lansdowne-house, on Wednesday, the 14th instant, where a deputation, representing the Wesleyans, headed by Dr. Bunting, met the Marquis of Lansdowne and Lord J. Russell. An agreement was come to, the basis of which was, that the existing Minutes of Council should be



construed to require the use of the entire Scriptures, or of the authorized version, in all schools receiving Government aid, with the express view of the exclusion of Roman Catholic schools: the Government, however, not to be precluded from issuing fresh Minutes, or aiding Catholic schools, nor the Wesleyans in such case from opposing the same by every means in their power. Nor was this all; other conditions which were agreed to stipulated that all schools receiving Government aid should be compelled to receive children of Wesleyan parents, without their being obliged to learn the school catechism, or attend Church, or hear the Church service; while it was further settled that no person holding holy orders should be a master in any school, this latter being intended to defeat a proposal of the Bishop of Exeter [a laugh]. These points having been duly settled, the committees left on Friday last, and the decision which they came to was in favour of the Government scheme [hear, hear].

Mr. MACAULAY: The whole story is a mere romance [hear, hear, and laughter].

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE: Then Catholics are not to be excluded. Is that a romance? Will the right honourable gentleman say that they are not excluded at the present moment? Mr. DUNCOMBE taunted Mr. Macaulay, and others of the Ministry, with the grossest inconsistency on this subject, read extracts from their speeches some years ago to prove that they had obstinately resisted an attempt which was then made to deprive the Roman Catholics of the benefits of the usual educational grants, and expressed a hope that there was still sufficient spirit in the House not to vote a single shilling in support of this system, until the Roman Catholics, who contribute to the taxes necessary to defray the expense of it, were allowed to participate in its benefit. He asked the House whether Ministers would have dared to consent to this exclusion of the Roman Catholics had Mr. O'Connell been well enough to attend in his place in that House? He had been told, but he would not believe the information, that the Protestant members of that House would be left alone to fight this battle for the Roman Catholics, and never till he saw it would he credit the rumour that Mr. Sheil would walk out into the same lobby on this division with Lord J. Russell. Speaking of the pecuniary cost of this scheme, he defied any man to state what it would be before ten years were over.

Mr. MACAULAY: A penny per head.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE: A penny a-head! That, too, was a mere romance. For some years hence, as he entered into some statistics to prove, it would cost £2,000,000 annually. He next came to the Minutes themselves. In the first place, he objected to the annual cost, because the working of the scheme was not likely to accomplish the object it professed to have in view. He thought it would give much undue influence to the power of the Crown, and also increase the patronage of the Government. These Minutes were passed on the 26th of August, and then the President of the Council retired about four months, until the rules came out as to pupil teachers and stipendiary monitors. And here he must say, that, looking at these Minutes, altogether independently of their unconstitutional character, never was there such a piece of quackery as they exhibited [much laughter]. Talk of Dr. Eady or of Morrison's pills, why he insisted on it that Dr. Kay Shuttleworth's Minutes beat every other quackery hollow [much laughter]. He saw that the clergymen were to assist at the examination of the monitors. Now many clergymen objected to this regulation. He saw that in the second year of their examination—"the geography of Great Britain and of Palestine was to be taught." He saw that the girls were not to proceed for a certain time beyond the rule of "compound proportions." Only think, said the honourable gentleman, of your future housemaids and cooks being crammed with "compound proportions" under the superintendence of the parochial clergyman [much laughter]! The Minutes then went on to say that instructions should be given in "Vocal music, drawing from models, &c." If drawing from the living model was deemed so requisite, he thought they might with advantage have recourse to those exhibitions of *poses plastiques* now in such request throughout the metropolis [hear, hear, and a laugh]. Great admiration was expressed of the system of education adopted in Switzerland, but he did not find one of the essential articles of the Swiss system at all mentioned in the Minutes. There instructions were directed to be given in the rights and duties of citizens. Now, why should not the children and pupil teachers of our schools be instructed in the rights and duties of citizens [hear, hear]. Why was not the constitutional history of England to be put into their hands instead of those other books considered so indispensable to their training? There were parts of this scheme which would deprive a great portion of this country from receiving any part of the Government grant. The noble member for the West Riding of Yorkshire said at York, that he thought the rural districts were neglected. To receive £15 or £20, twice the amount must be provided by local funds. So that each district must make up £40 or £50, which, with a house rent free, would amount to £80, to entitle them to call for a grant of £20. It was well known that there were many rural parishes, especially in the north, where such a sum as £20 or £15 was not raised for education, and which yet provided under the existing state of things a pretty good education to those who required it at their hands. Were they to be deprived of the share of the Government allowance if they thought proper to apply for it, when they were taxed for the maintenance and support of other schools? [hear, hear]. He had no objection to that part of the scheme which related to field gardens; but he was strongly opposed to the institution of workshops for the teaching of trades. He held in his hand the objections of a working man to this part of the scheme, and (as was generally the case) these working men stated their views so much better than they could be conveyed for them, that he should give his own words:—

Your petitioners desire especially to direct the attention of your hon. House to a portion of that scheme, which, if put in operation, will be productive of serious injury to the trades and labouring classes of the country. Under the head, "Workshops for trades," it is provided by the Minutes that grants may be made for the erection of workshops or of suitable buildings, towards the purchase of tools, and for the encouragement of master workmen, by granting securities for every boy who, in consequence of skill acquired in the workshops, shall have become a workman or assistant in any trade or craft, whereby he is earning a livelihood. This portion of the scheme will, in the opinion of your petitioners, inflict a serious injury on the honest and hard-working artisan of this country. The great body of the trades are already brought down to the mere subsistence level by the keen competition caused by redundant labour. But the proposed addition to these competitors will render their condition much worse, because it will be impossible for the produce of their labour to be sold in the open market at the same price as that of these favoured and privileged workshops. Your petitioners would remind your hon. House of the wretched condition of the shirtmakers and needlewomen of the metropolis, and other large towns. To a great extent this wretchedness is, in the opinion of your petitioners, attributable to the fact, that they are compelled to compete with persons employed in workhouses, schools of industry, and similar institutions.

That appeared to be remarkably well on the face of it; but as to the skilled trades, it was attempted to teach them, over and over again, in industrial schools, but never with any other result than failure. A person taught shoemaking, for instance, in such schools, could not furnish any work that could be sold in the ordinary market; and, therefore, it was doing more harm than good to teach, or attempt to

teach, trades to those pupils in the National schools. If they were taught badly, then their work would not meet with a sale; and if they could succeed in instructing them well, then their success would only injure the regular tradesman. The Minutes said these boys were to share in the profits arising from any articles they might make. If that were so, how could the shoemaker, who had rent to pay and tools to buy, compete successfully with those who were supported by the State, had their rent paid, and their tools bought for them? In point of fact, a sale of the products of these pupils must greatly reduce the wages of the working classes. Depend on it, the working classes wanted more than anything else "a fair day's wages for a fair day's work;" but this scheme was in his opinion, rather calculated to shut out the probability of their attaining that great end [hear, hear]. Great interest had been used to endeavour to get the support of the working-classes to this scheme. He received a letter from an individual in Birmingham, saying that an active canvass had been made in favour of the Government measure amongst the artisans of that town. But they were not to be taken in [hear, hear]. First of all, feelers were put out by the Government agents in that district, in the shape of placards, on which was written: "Men of Birmingham! do not be blinded by any sectarian jealousy. The Government scheme offers aid to Churchmen and Dissenters alike. No favouritism! Pork for all!" (This alluded to a declaration, at a former meeting, in favour of "more pig, and less parson.") "And men of Birmingham, look here! 'Knowledge is power,' for either good or evil. The promoters of the Government scheme of education have ever been the promulgators of passive obedience, and non-resistance. Put a pin in that fact, working men. 'Knowledge is power,' but it may be so engrafted in the minds of your children, that they will always be passive slaves, and submissively obedient to the powers that be. Put a pin in that fact also. They cry out pork for all. Working men, inquire who has to buy the pig and pay for its keep?" Well, a public meeting took place, and the Government proposal was negatived by a majority of 150 to 1 [hear]. Now they must see, that so far as the working-men were concerned, they had little chance of gaining their approval of this measure. They were too good judges to applaud a measure of insult and injury to them, rather than one, as they were led to hope, for the promotion of their happiness. In the district of Birmingham, too, it was felt that the committee of Privy Council had not acted in a way to entitle them to the confidence of the country. He had a statement of their conduct as to a school established by Dissenters:—

He thought that it was in 1844 that some friends of religion and education in the town purchased a school belonging to the Society of Friends, and he was delighted to bear his testimony to the efforts that body had made. Well, they established their school, and carried it on with considerable effect, and determined to build another for 250 girls. They got their estimate, and proposed to apply to Government for a grant. With that view, at the desire of his colleagues, he entered into a correspondence with Dr. Shuttleworth. These grants, he had then reason to feel, were not so easily obtained for Dissenters [hear, hear]. The first thing they had to do was to send their trust deeds to the Privy Council; and, in answer, they were informed that these were void for want of enrolment. This was attended with no little expense; but, having remedied the difficulty, he went to London, where he was received with considerable affability by Dr. Shuttleworth, who said, "You may commence your building as soon as you like; the Council will grant £100. A serious illness laid him (Mr. Dawson) aside for some time; and, after that, application was made to the Council for the money, when, to their mortification, they received for answer, that 'the Lords in Council have granted £50.' He would not describe the disappointment and annoyance occasioned by this; he would only say it rejoiced him to inform the meeting that, under the circumstances, the committee made up their minds, and refused the grant [loud cheers]. But now he would contrast this treatment with that experienced by another body in the same town. A gentleman there laid out £800 to build a school in connexion with the Church; and, having applied to the Council, how much did the meeting suppose it granted? Why, any child would say that, if, for an outlay of £350, they (the Dissenters) obtained £50, the amount to be given to the Church school should have been £150. On the contrary, the Council wrote at once to say that they granted him £800. He mentioned this as an illustration of the kind of fairness they might expect to meet with if they consented to this system of grants."

Was not this an undue preference? Could the Dissenters have any confidence in a body which had exhibited such gross partiality as that? He was sure the right honourable member for Edinburgh (Mr. Macaulay) would not say that was an impartial distribution of the grant; on the contrary, he affirmed that such a line of conduct did not entitle any self-elected body such as that to the confidence of the House and of the country in the disposal of the people's taxes. By way, as he supposed, of illustrating the ignorance of the working-classes, he observed that Dr. Shuttleworth alluded to the combinations, strikes, and unions of the working-classes; and, at the end of his pamphlet, he said that those combinations which had occurred at various times among the workmen in England, particularly at Preston, must be attributable to the ignorance of the persons engaged in them. Now, unless he were told that this pamphlet was not published with the sanction of the Privy Council he would assume it to be a public document. He maintained that this scheme of theirs would enormously increase the influence of the Crown and the patronage of Government. He begged the House for a moment to pause and consider the amount of patronage that had already been created, and that amount, in perspective, which they were about to create, and they would see, that between the two, the influence of the Crown was likely to be largely extended. Last year they gave a seat in that House to a commissioner of railways, a gentleman who would always go out with the Government, and be dependent on the Government of the day. Then let them look at the patronage which they had recently had with respect to the Local Courts Bill,—the number of judges they had already created, and the number of appointments they would have as vacancies occurred. Then there was the Board of Health, and the number of inspectors that would be appointed, all under Government—more patronage again! Then there were the four new bishops that were to be created; Mr. Hughes, of Gordon-square, perhaps, being one of the candidates [laughter]. Then look at the pensions and gratuities that would be at the disposal of Government and the Privy Council, among the schoolmasters and schoolmistresses under this scheme. He wanted to know what necessity there was for schoolmasters at the end of 15 years' service having any pensions at all? There were many poor curates who had worked from 20 to 30 years who had no pensions; and yet a schoolmaster, who should enter as a teacher, at the age of 20 or 25, was not only to get gratuities during his service, but a retiring allowance at the end of 15 years. This would put an enormous amount of patronage in the power of the Crown; and he believed that it would create a great deal of corruption throughout the country. He wanted to know, then, what objection there was to appointing a committee to inquire into this scheme? The noble lord had stated that there were some objections to the scheme of great force, but that there were others very unreasonable. If so, why not attempt to have these objections removed before a committee of that House? He could only say that if they did not give a fair hearing to parties who wished to come before them to state their honest objections to the scheme, a very bad impression would be produced of the conduct of that

House. He wanted to know why the noble lord should shrink from a fair, enlightened, and impartial committee? If the noble lord did shrink from the probe which he (Mr. Duncombe) wished to apply to the scheme, the public would come to the conclusion that there was something in it which would not bear the light of day; and that the real object of Government was to increase the power and influence of the Crown much more than the instruction of the people; and that the result of it all would be that, instead of our being a free and well-educated people, we would become an enslaved and corrupted nation [hear, hear]. The hon. member concluded by moving—

That previous to any grant of any public money being assented to by this House, for the purpose of carrying out the scheme of national education, as developed in the Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education, in August and December last (which Minutes have been presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of her Majesty,) a select Committee be appointed to inquire into the justice and expediency of such a scheme, and its probable annual cost; also to inquire whether the regulations attached thereto do not unduly increase the influence of the Crown, invade the constitutional functions of Parliament, and interfere with the religious convictions and the civil rights of her Majesty's subjects. The Committee to report their opinion, with the evidence, to the House.

Lord DUNCAN, in seconding the amendment of Mr. Duncombe, gave expression to the feeling of disappointment with which he had listened to the speech of Lord John Russell. He had expected that his lordship would have explained why he had retained as a Board of Education that Committee of the Privy Council which had already created too much heart-burning and animosity in the country. He then proceeded to attack the constitution of the Privy Council, and to object to delegate to a portion of it the control of the whole education of the kingdom. He lamented that Ministers had excluded Roman Catholics from the benefit of any educational grant, and, as they appeared to entertain at present great apprehensions of the dangerous doctrines of that sect, called their attention to the mischievous consequences which might arise, if a Puseyite committee of the Privy Council should appoint a number of Puseyite inspectors and of Puseyite schoolmasters, and should thus poison the minds of the rising generation with notions of religion differing but in empty words from those of the Roman Catholics themselves. He should have preferred a bill on this subject to a mere formal resolution like the present.

Sir R. INGLIS did not regard this scheme of education with any special degree of favour; but it was established under a previous Minute of Privy Council, and it was now in vain to hope for a different organization of the means for providing for the future education of the country. Though he retained the conviction, which he had formerly expressed, that it was to the Church alone that the State ought to delegate the education of the people, he refrained from pressing his opinions on that subject on the House at present, and would take the plan now tendered to him by the Government, if not cheerfully, at any rate thankfully. It was a better plan than he could have hoped to obtain from any other combination of parties in that House. Much had been said, in the course of the debate, as to the effect of education in diminishing the amount of crime; but he had some statistics of crime on the one hand, and of education on the other, from which it appeared, that crime was committed by educated rather than uneducated men. In a prison at no very great distance from that House, out of 1,000 prisoners, 845 were educated, and the remainder not. Education, unless you render it such as taught men their duty to God, and not merely reading and writing, conferred on them a doubtful good; and it was because he saw sufficient provision made in this plan for the instruction of the children of the lower classes in their religious duties, and sufficient provision made for superintending, by inspectors, the performance of their duties by the schoolmasters, that he gave it, not his cordial, but his thankful support.

Mr. MACAULAY observed that, as the first act which he had performed as a member of the Privy Council was to give his assent to this Minute, he felt himself particularly called upon to come forward on this occasion to defend it. He did not intend to follow Mr. Duncombe closely through his speech; for, notwithstanding all the local anecdotes, all the personal anecdotes, and all the collateral questions into which he had entered, he could not discover what Mr. Duncombe's opinion was on the main question of that evening—namely, whether the education of the people was something to which the State ought to attend? He (Mr. Macaulay) was prepared to argue that it was the right and the duty of the State to provide for the education of the common people. The first object of every Government was to take effectual means for accomplishing that object—education. Having quoted Dr. Adam Smith's opinion, that if the State did not attend to the religious education of its people, great disorders must ensue, he observed that that illustrious philosopher had scarcely written that sentence before the riots of 1782 took place and exemplified the truth of it; 100,000 ignorant men rose up in London at the mere call of a madman. For a week, London was in the power of a mob, and 36 fires in one day were blazing in different parts of it. All this was caused by the inconceivable ignorance of a rabble fearless of God in the light of Christianity, and brutalized by ignorance in the midst of civilization. To the same cause might be attributed the Nottingham riots, the Bristol riots, the Swing fires, the incendiarism and destruction of machinery which occurred some years ago in different parts of the country. Such outrages could not have taken place had the labouring population been taught to revere their Maker, to fear their King, to love their neighbour, and to seek redress of wrongs by peaceful and constitutional means. He showed, that the duty of educating the people had been advocated by the political legislators and philosophers of all ages—by all the champions of civil and religious liberty in all countries, and more especially by the Nonconformists of England who resisted the ecclesiastical tyranny of Laud in the 17th century. "Educate the people" was the constant language of Washington and Jefferson to their countrymen in America; and those who maintained the contrary must consider Government as a great hangman, and must be prepared to make those whom education might elevate into the ornaments, the victims of society. He then took a rapid review of the statistics of crime and of education in England, derived from the various reports of the inspectors of prisons, and of the registrars of marriages, for the purpose of showing the low state of education among us. He also quoted the report of the Committee of the Congressional Union for General Education, which was printed on the motion of Mr. E. Baines, on the 16th of May, 1846, to prove their opinion as to the neglected education and spiritual destitution of the people of England. He verily believed, that the state of education among our common people was such as ought to render us all ashamed that we presented so lamentable a spectacle to every intelligent foreigner who visited our shores. How had such a melancholy state of things grown up? Under the system of non-interference and free competition in education which the Dissenters so much admired. "But," said they, "wait with patience, and it will be cured by the voluntary efforts of the people themselves." Why, we have been waiting since the heptarchy, and we have applied too

long the principle of non-interference to a subject to which it was not applicable. He then pointed out to the House the advantage which had accrued to Scotland from the establishment of schools in that country in 1694, and argued that the success of that experiment convinced him that the education of the common people was the clear and sacred duty of the State. Having established that principle, all the difficulties of this question vanished. First, as to the money question. If it be the duty of the State to educate the people, surely the House would not refuse to perform that duty on account of its expense. He believed that, even in a financial point of view, a grant like the present would answer the object of the economist, within ten years, in the diminution of expense which it would occasion in prisons, in prosecutions, and in penal colonies. Next, as to the patronage question. No other department of the Government was placed under such a check. Not only must this grant come before the House every year, but the details of it were placed under the control of the friends of education in every locality. Then, as to the inconsistent argument, that this scheme would destroy all voluntary exertion, and would yet entail a burden of £2,000,000 annually on the country. Now, if the ingenious gentleman who advanced that argument had read the Minutes of education before he criticised it, he would have seen that the amount of the grant depended upon the amount of voluntary exertion. If there was no voluntary exertion, there would be no expense of £2,000,000; if there were an annual grant of £2,000,000, then the cause of education must be flourishing indeed, for there must be voluntary contributions to the amount of £4,000,000. Having demonstrated that the Government scheme did not in any respect interfere with the constitutional functions of Parliament, nor with the religious feelings and convictions of the people, he reminded Mr. Duncombe that that politician must be a very short-sighted friend of the people who would grant them franchises, and yet withhold from them that education which could alone render those franchises beneficial, either to the parties who enjoyed them, or to the country to which they belonged. He concluded by declaring that he appealed with confidence on this project, from the clamour of Mr. Duncombe and his friends, to the solemn and deliberate judgment of the nation at large, which he was sure would ratify with approbation the scheme of education which the Government had just submitted to it.

Mr. ROEBUCK charged Ministers with having thrown into their plan one ingredient which completely paralyzed all the benefit to be derived from the other portions of it. Fanaticism and hatred were the general appanage of every religious class in England; and Government, instead of mitigating that fanaticism and that hatred, were increasing it by their plan to an incalculable extent. The Government should patronize such a plan of education as would enable all to attend its schools; but instead of doing so it brought forward a plan, which, by teaching religion, flung all the different sects into collision with each other. We were now very near a general election, and with that event before them Government had made an attempt to conciliate parties that were irreconcilable, and had thus exasperated those who before were not very friendly to each other. So long as Government mixed up national with religious education, its endeavours would fail, and would produce nothing but evil in, and collision out of the House. At the same time he confessed his conviction, that all the argument about the increase of patronage attendant on this scheme was idle and fallacious, and unworthy of a moment's serious consideration. He warned the Government that, if they did not act as a manly part, the same hand which struck down the corn laws would build up a liberal system of education; and then they would lament that they had not had the courage to do what they knew to be right, and had left to others the glory of achieving a conquest over ignorance and prejudice, which they might have achieved themselves had they only dared to do their duty.

On the motion of Mr. EWART the debate was then adjourned.

THE QUEEN has apportioned for Lord John Russell's residence, Pembroke-lodge, in Richmond-park, last held by the late Earl of Erroll, which his lordship's family and suite will immediately occupy.

SALE OF THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP.—The Great Western steamship was sold at Bristol, on Friday, to Captain Chappell, the secretary of the Royal West India Steam Packet Mail Company, for £25,000, exclusive of her plate, and which was the reserve price put on her when she was offered for sale by auction a few weeks since.

CONFESSION AND EXECUTION OF CATHERINE FOSTER.—Catherine Foster, condemned to death by Chief Baron Pollock, at the late Suffolk assizes, for the murder of her husband three weeks after marriage, by poisoning a dumpling with arsenic, was executed on Saturday morning, at Bury St. Edmund's. Before her death she made a confession of her guilt, but studiously avoided alluding to any circumstance which might lead to the motives for which she perpetrated the horrid deed. On Saturday the crowd assembled to witness the execution was very great: at nine o'clock the number of persons could not have been less than 10,000. The body, after hanging the usual period, was cut down and interred within the walls of the prison.

MURDER OF A WIFE AND CHILD, AND SUICIDE OF THE MURDERER.—On Sunday morning, about half-past six o'clock, the quiet inhabitants of Lower Norwood, Surrey, were thrown into a state of consternation by a most frightful murder committed by a man named John Young, aged twenty-one years, an artificial flower maker, residing in High-street, Lower Norwood, who succeeded in taking the lives of his wife and child, and afterwards committed self-destruction. The man it appears was insane, and had been previously under constraint.

SINGULAR PHENOMENON.—About midnight, on the 19th of March, a singular phenomenon was witnessed on board the "Stornoway," royal mail-packet, in the Minch, by Captain Macaulay and his crew and passengers. The weather was serene in the extreme, and the water smooth and shining, when in a moment the ship was surrounded by lights, burning as brilliantly as torches. The flame possessed a bluish tinge, and illuminated the sky to such a degree that one could have seen to pick up a pin off the ship's deck. One of the lights passed close by the packet, and appeared exactly like the flame arising from ignited whisky, or spirits of wine.—*Inverness Courier*.

THE DUC DE BROGLIE is to succeed Count St. Aulaire as French Ambassador in London, to the great satisfaction of the Peace party.—*Times*.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

OPENING OF THE PRUSSIAN DIET.

King Frederick William opened the session of the United Diet at Berlin, on Sunday, the 11th inst. The proceedings of the day began with religious worship. At nine o'clock in the morning the King, habited in a military uniform and plain cloak, left the Palace, and walked on foot to the Protestant cathedral. He was attended by no guard, but was followed by his staff. Snow had fallen heavily, and the weather kept the people within doors, so that the concourse was not great; but the King was received with loud welcomes by those that did assemble. The Protestant members of the Diet also attended divine service in the same edifice; the Roman Catholics performed their devotions in the church of St. Hedvig. About a quarter before eleven the service in the cathedral ended, and the King returned to his palace on foot, but followed by the Members of the Diet, the Ministers of State, and Officers of the Household. The snow had ceased to fall; the crowd was greater, the cheering louder.

The White Hall of the Palace was fitted up for the occasion. Seats for the Queen and Princesses were placed in one gallery; in another gallery for the diplomatic corps, among whom the Earl of Westmoreland was observed. All having taken their allotted places, the King entered in state. The sceptre was borne before him by General Mülling, who was Governor of Paris during the occupation of that city by the allied armies. The King took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an extemporary speech, the translated version of which, without abridgment, fills two or three columns of the *Times*. This was the opening:—

Illustrious noble Princes, Counts and Lords, my dear and trusty orders of Nobles, Burghers, and Commons, I bid you, from the depth of my heart, welcome on the day of the fulfilment of a great work of my father, resting in God, never to be forgotten, King Frederick William the Third, of glorious memory.

The noble edifice of representative freedom, the eight mighty pillars of which the King of blessed memory founded deep and unshakably in the peculiar organization of his provinces, is to-day perfected in your assembly. It has received its protecting roof. The King wished to have finished his work himself; but his views were shipwrecked in the utter impracticability of the plans laid before him. Therefrom arose evils which his clear eye detected with grief, and, before all, the uncertainty which made many a noble soil susceptible of weeds. Let us bless, however, to-day, the conscientiousness of the true beloved King, who despised his own earlier triumph in order to guard his folk from later ruin; and let us honour his memory, by not perilling the existence of his completed work by the impatient haste of beginners.

The principal political matters alluded to were the measures adopted or determined upon by the King before the opening of the Diet; he having proclaimed the principle of complete religious freedom to all sects; the publicity of the proceedings in the civil and criminal courts, while the Prussian envoy at Frankfurt has been instructed to bring before the Federal Diet the question of the liberty of the press, with a view to the complete execution of the pledge contained in the 18th article of the federal compact of Germany. The regulations for the conduct of public business by the Prussian Diet are conceived in a liberal spirit, more akin to the practice of Parliament in this country than to that of the French Chambers; and complete freedom has been secured to the publication of the debates, with the names of the speakers.

The King named the Prince of Solms and Lieutenant Von Roehow, Marshals of the Diet; the Minister of the Interior declared the Diet to be opened; and the Prince of Solms made a speech in reply to the King's gracious address.

The *Universal Prussian Gazette* of the 10th of April, contains two royal ordinances, declaring the rules under which the public are to be admitted to the proceedings in the civil and criminal courts. Admission is given to all males, excepting those who have lost the right to wear the national cockade, or who are not of decent appearance. All persons, however, not interested in the case, are to withdraw when the Court deems it necessary. In civil cases, "the public can only be excluded at the request of one or other of the parties when such reasons for this exclusion are adduced as the Court after free consideration deems sufficient." "The ordinance does not apply to proceedings in suits of divorce regulated by the law of the 28th of June, 1844."

The *Gazette* also publishes the royal patent granting toleration to new religious societies.

Contrary to expectation, a sentence of one month's imprisonment delivered against Ronge, in March 1846, for preaching without leave of the authorities, at Magdeburg, has just been enforced by the police, at Breslau; and Ronge went into prison on the 2nd instant. He was accompanied by a band of two thousand persons, shouting for Ronge and "religious liberty."

A Frankfurt correspondent of the *Spectator*, writing under date April 13, writes as follows on the opening of the new Diet:—

The King would be admired as a master of every art. He has an especial notion that he possesses oratorical powers. To display them, he must have listeners. The commencement he made on his accession does not seem to have acted as a warning, and to have convinced him that there are sayings which are not to be retracted. He scorns the dangers of Parliamentary tactics, and fancies he can lead a popular assembly as well as the most experienced member of Brooks's, far better than any Doctrinaire statesman beyond the Rhine.

The general feeling on this subject in Germany is, that what is left undone at Berlin will be accomplished at Munich, Carlsruhe, Hanover, or, perhaps, even at Vienna. Wherever constitutions exist, there will be competition in concessions to the people. The whole matter has not come to the Germans unexpectedly. It will be easy for other sovereigns to gain laurels at as little expense or risk as Frederick William the Fourth. The sudden burst of liberality has come when there was little left to give away. A Government can afford to consult a nation on the subject of public expenditure when taxation has been carried to its maximum and paper issues have reached an extension that cannot be further stretched. This is the key to the Liberal movement in Prussia; but, as it has ever been the key to

all such movements, the circumstance is not the less important that it now happens for the tenth time instead of the first.

Under the various influences which the new Parliament must encounter, we may expect much that will be amusing, and, perhaps, some ridiculous scenes. One half of the knights summoned are men in office, removable at pleasure; each of these will, of course, prove an "alter ego" for the royal patron. The leading feature of the session will not fail to be the personal activity of the First Estate, which may chance to put the other three to the blush.

FRANCE.

The French Government has laid before the Chambers a bill to prune the tariff of customs' duties. The measure does not in any respect trench upon what may be called the substance of the tariff, or the spirit of its policy. Nearly three hundred articles have, in one way or other, been struck out of the tariff; but they are almost entirely articles of no importance. The whole amount of duties sacrificed does not exceed £120,000. No restriction is removed from any great and important article—no raw material, no tool, no article of food or of clothing. Iron is admitted for the use and construction of shipping, if such a destination be "proved"—a sufficiently stringent condition. The measure, in short, makes no substantive alteration in the tariff, but only prunes it of many useless branches, or rather twigs, which encumbered and disfigured it. The measure is one of symmetry, not of change.

M. Guizot and the Marquis of Normanby have exchanged hospitalities. On Tuesday, the French Minister gave a dinner to the British Ambassador and a distinguished party; and on Wednesday evening there was a ball at the British embassy, at which M. Guizot and most of the Cabinet Ministers were present.

PORTUGAL.

The *Morning Chronicle* publishes a letter from its correspondent at Lisbon, dated the 9th, with a brief postscript of the 10th. The movements of the insurgent forces since the landing of Sã da Bandeira's expedition at Lagos were such as to bring about a speedy junction with the forces of the Count de Mello at Caxilhas, and, as a consequence, the threatening of Lisbon. Caxilhas is a sort of suburb of that city; from which it is divided by the Tagus, at that part three miles wide. A decisive conflict seemed inevitable. Within the city a rising was apprehended. Much discontent was known to exist; and the Portuguese Ministers had applied to the British Ambassador and Admiral for aid of the British marines in case of need, as they could not answer for the tranquillity of the city. The answer was not known; but it was assumed, from the arming of the launches belonging to the ships of war, that there was a disposition to give the required aid in case of an outbreak.

On the authority of its Paris correspondent, the *Times* of Saturday mentions that Señor Concha "had, it was understood, succeeded in confirming the proposed union of Great Britain, France, and Spain, in terminating the present horrible state of affairs in Portugal." He left Paris on Wednesday.

In a leading article on Monday, the *Times* throws some light on the above information:—"We have still undiminished reason to believe that Sir Hamilton Seymour and Admiral Parker have consented that the marines should be landed from the British ships of war now in the Tagus, upon a representation of Count Tojal that the personal security of the Queen was in danger, and that the Ministry could not answer for the tranquillity of the capital; but that the intervention of these troops will be strictly confined to the protection of her Majesty's person and of British subjects and property in Lisbon. Meanwhile, the Court itself seems at last to have discovered its deplorable and almost hopeless condition. The provinces of Algarve and the Alemtejo are completely in the hands of the insurgents; and when the Conde de Mello has effected his junction with Sã da Bandeira their forces will amount to 6,000 men, who will advance at once to the Tagus, and may even cross it without much difficulty, and march to Lisbon. The state of the capital is frightful. In short, everything indicates the probability of a disturbance in Lisbon itself, which may reduce the Queen to take refuge on board a British man-of-war."

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

SANGUINARY BATTLE.

The mail-steamer, "Hibernia," which left Boston on the 1st instant, arrived at Liverpool on Thursday morning.

An important battle had occurred at Buena Vista, near Saltillo, on the 22nd and 23rd of February. Each side claims the advantage, the United States with the greater probability. We first take their version. Santa Anna had a force of 17,000 men; General Taylor of 4,000 or 5,000, mostly volunteers. The Mexicans advanced boldly, charging with the bayonet up to the very muzzles of the guns, and receiving a deadly fire. The fight continued for two whole days; and on the evening of the second, the Mexicans retired to Agua Nueva, twenty miles in their rear, leaving their dead and wounded on the field, and sustaining a loss of 4,000. The United States loss was "at least 2,000," with an immense proportion of officers; every colonel of volunteers, except one, was killed. So says the *New Orleans Delta*; but the *New Orleans Picayune* calculates the loss of the United States force at 700 in killed and wounded, including sixty-three officers.

The Mexican account is furnished by Santa Anna himself, in a short letter addressed to the Government at Mexico. He estimates the adverse force at 8,000 or 9,000; boasts that the enemy lost five of his positions, three pieces of artillery, two flags, and 2,000 men; and appeals to the "trophies of war" to attest on which side victory fell. As to his own retreat, he only retired to obtain provisions, being without a single biscuit or grain of rice, and having "struggled with hunger and thirst for forty hours." When refreshed, he will attack the enemy again.

There are various rumours as to the attacks on San Juan d'Ulloa and Vera Cruz; but they appear to be premature.

Reports had been received from Santa Fé, that the New Mexicans had risen and massacred the Americans in the city, together with the Governor, Bent, and his officers.

At Mexico there had been a new revolution. The clergy and the National Guard had combined; Gomez Farias had been deposed from the Vice-Presidency, and General Salas, a devoted partizan of Santa Anna, installed in his place. Santa Anna was continued in command of the army.

The domestic intelligence from the United States is unimportant. The most remarkable event was a speech by Mr. Calhoun, at Charlestown, in which he declared, that in the next Congress the non-slaveholding states would have a decided majority—four in the Senate, and "overwhelming" in the House; the Abolitionists holding the balance of power between Whigs and Democrats. Therefore, he said, the "slave question" must be made a fundamental question at the next Presidential election; and he urged upon the South the formation of a great party to support its rights.

A STEAMER BURNT AT SEA—THIRTY LIVES LOST.

The *Dublin Freeman* of Wednesday relates a most melancholy catastrophe, attended with considerable loss of life, which took place on board the *Grana Uile* steamer, bound from Liverpool to Drogheda, when about thirty miles east of Lambay. Most of the passengers—of whom the number has been stated at from 100 to 250—had gone to Liverpool with the view of emigrating to America; but, being unable to find vessels, were returning. Many of the passengers were cattle-dealers, and from a conversation with one of them, it appears that about six a.m., and after the steamer had passed Holyhead, all on board were aroused by the cry of "Fire! fire!" A terrible rush took place towards the deck, and the confusion became so great, and the people so alarmed, that none of them were met appear to have any knowledge of the state of facts, or the condition of the ship. The only thing they remembered was that the vessel was on fire; the bunkers or coal-holds having ignited in the first instance. Every exertion was made to subdue the flames, but the vessel was so crowded, and the consternation so terrific, that the efforts made to save her were retarded and proved unsuccessful. For a long time the captain was sanguine in his hopes of subduing the fire. In this state the fire raging below, but not appearing above, the vessel kept on her course till about seven o'clock, when she was observed by the *Bessy*, fishing-smack of Ringsend, when those of the passengers and crew who were on deck were rescued from their perilous position. On nearing her they found the people on board screaming, and many of them clinging to her sides. At the time the *Bessy* came up, the flame had not burst out, but was still confined to the interior. Sixty-nine persons were taken on board by the aid of boats—the smack standing off, lest the fire might be communicated. When the first alarm of fire was given, one of the steamer's boats was lowered, but the rush of people into her was so great that she swamped and almost all perished. The crew, with the exception of the captain, were all saved; and the skipper of the *Bessy* states that the mate told him the unfortunate gentleman could have saved himself, but that he refused to abandon his vessel while there was the most remote chance of saving her, and that he vowed he would not stir until passengers and crew were all safe, a determination which cost him his life, for it appears in the last extremity he took the life-buoy and jumped overboard. Although the passengers saved were mostly poor people and heavy losers, they subscribed 6*l.*, as a testimony of their gratitude towards the master of the *Bessy*, Mr. Pullen, and his gallant crew. The highest commendations have been bestowed, by all classes in Dublin, on those humane and intrepid men. The steamer has entirely disappeared, and none of the parties on board saved anything save their clothes and the money on their persons. It is supposed that at least thirty persons have perished.

ALLEGED APPARITION OF THE VIRGIN MARY.—Several Roman Catholic journals record a new miracle. According to the tale, the Virgin Mary appeared, on the 19th of September, 1846, to two shepherd boys, who were together on the mountain of La Salette, in the diocese of Grenoble. She spoke to each in his native tongue—to one in French, to the other in the German patois of the frontier; giving to each a very long exhortation on the want of diligence among the people of Corps, the village to which they belonged. She wore a wreath of roses; when she went away they saw that the grass did not bend under the pressure of her feet; she disappeared gradually, the light of her countenance dazzling them. On one spot where her foot rested a fountain sprang out, which has not since dried; and the water has proved a successful remedy for sick persons. The parish (says the *Tablet*) is completely changed, for the Sundays are no longer desecrated. The note of this apparition was taken on the spot, in the presence of the children, by five ecclesiastics, among whom was the curé of Corps.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, April 21st.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

THE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SCHEME.

Before the resumption of the debate last night in the House of Commons, a shoal of petitions was presented for the most part against the measure. Amongst them Mr. BRIGHT presented a petition from five hundred delegates lately assembled in London, against the government education scheme. Also, one to the same effect from the city of Edinburgh, signed by between 17,000 and 18,000 persons. Also, one from 17,500 inhabitants of Sheffield, to the same effect.

Mr. EWART then complained of the government scheme, because it was not comprehensive enough, and because it interfered with religious belief. His objections, however, were not of such a character as to determine him to act with hostility against the whole measure. The way in which the government had brought it forward precluded him from proposing his

objections in the usual form of amendments; but he hoped that he should have the assistance of the PREMIER in taking the opinions of the House upon them.

Sir C. NAPIER should vote against the scheme.

The Earl of ARUNDEL and SURREY (Roman Catholic), thanked Mr. T. DUNCOMBE, Sir C. NAPIER, and others, for the opposition which they had given to that part of the government scheme relating to Roman Catholics. It was true that Lord J. RUSSELL had said that he did not consider himself precluded from proposing hereafter a Minute in favour of the Roman Catholics; but he had refrained from saying when he would do so, and he (the Earl of SURREY), knew well that, if his Lordship proposed it separately, it would be exposed to the hostility of every other class of Dissenters. That was one side of the question. On the other, he saw the country in a deplorable condition of ignorance, and the souls full of criminals ignorant of the very name of God. He would not, therefore, stand in the way of the education of the people, but would throw over every jealousy and support the measure.

Mr. AGLONBY should oppose the scheme, because he found religious and secular education united.

Lord SANDON would give it a qualified, Mr. SEYMER a cordial, support.

Mr. M. GIBBORNE thought it necessary to explain the reasons which influenced him in giving his vote against the proposition of the Government, lest he should be deemed to be joining in a censure on the Government, which, in his conscience, he believed they did not deserve. They had merely brought forward a scheme, which had been already sanctioned by the House; and, in so doing, they were undeserving of any blame. He had come to the conclusion, from analogy and from experience, that the Government could not interfere beneficially in the matter of education. He had been told that this scheme of national education had prospered on the Continent; but this he denied, and, in proof of it, read several extracts from the works of Mr. LAING, and other travellers, to prove that, in Switzerland and Prussia, the system of national education had not produced national benefit. Even in Scotland it had not produced all the beneficial consequences which Mr. Macaulay had so eloquently described; and he (Mr. Gisborne) must make a very considerable deduction from the merits which he had ascribed to his countrymen. He passed some time every year in Greenock and in Glasgow, and he had not seen anything in those two towns, either in the appearance or the manner of the inhabitants, which raised them in his estimation as civilized cities. He likewise passed two or three months annually in the highlands, and he found that the educated highlander was often nothing else than a savage barbarian. The defenders of the Government scheme asserted that it was the duty of Government to educate all classes of the people; and yet her Majesty's Ministers dared not include in their scheme the Roman Catholics or the Jews; for, if they included either, they knew that all chance of carrying it was gone. In conclusion, he stated that he had greater reliance on the Voluntary principle for the education of the people than he had upon any efforts of the State. [During Mr. Gisborne's speech, the House was near being counted out.]

After a few words from Mr. P. BORTHWICK in defence of the measure,

Mr. MORPETH entered into an elaborate defence of the Minutes, and of the course Government had pursued. With regard to the Roman Catholics he said, that of no Committee of the Privy Council, which should refuse Roman Catholic applications merely because they were Roman Catholics, could he remain or be a member. Alluding to the painful differences which separated him—but he hoped only for a time—from his constituents, he expressed his regret that the old Protestant dissenting denominations of England should have committed itself to the course on which it had now entered. He regretted it for himself individually, but he regretted it more for the sake of the Protestant Dissenters themselves; for he believed that they were in the wrong, and that their opposition, however it might embitter the struggle, must, in the end undoubtedly fail.

Mr. BRIGHT commented on the skill with which Lord J. Russell and Mr. Macaulay had avoided the question really before the House. That question was—the object, the tendency, and the consequences of these Minutes of Privy Council upon the relative position of the Established Church, and the dissenting congregations of the United Kingdom. Having condemned these Minutes in nearly the same terms with those used in Mr. Duncombe's amendment, he proceeded to grapple with Mr. Macaulay's argument that the State was bound in duty to educate the people. Utterly denying the correctness of the position, he remarked, that if the right of the State was so clear to educate its subjects, it was strange that neither in past centuries nor in modern times had any statesman made any effort to educate the people of England and Wales. Adverting to Lord J. Russell's statement, that the Dissenters had supported these Minutes in 1839, although they were opposing them now, he admitted that it was correct; but the Dissenters had no experience then, and they unfortunately had too much now. They hoped, in 1839, that they were on the right road to destroy the notion that the Church of England had a right to educate the people. But no: ever since that year there had been a constant attempt, on the part of Parliament and the Government, to aggrandize that Church; and now, in 1847, Lord John Russell came forward with a scheme which gave it increased power, and of which the Dissenters, consistently with their principles, could not avail themselves. Anybody who had heard the speeches of Lord J. Russell and Mr. Macaulay would have supposed that the Voluntary principle had entirely failed; but, so far from having failed, it had made extraordinary progress of late years, as all must admit who recollected the munificent contributions which had been made for the support of the Free Church of Scotland. As it had been so successful, it was not wise in the Government to interfere for the purpose of putting down the voluntary exertions of the people to educate themselves; for in all cases where the people were inclined to act for themselves, the

Government should never interfere and act for them. He then defended the Nonconformists from the charge of raising an unfounded clamour against this measure, and in the course of it gave a merited castigation to the bishops and clergy of the Established church. They were ready to take everything they could get and to keep everything that they once got; and as to liberality, there never was an impartial measure proposed for the security of the Nonconformists, which they had either hailed with enthusiasm or even refrained from opposing. No conscientious Dissenter had yet availed himself of this grant, and no conscientious Dissenter could take any part of this money, for if he did he could not say a syllable in future against the domination and usurpation of the Established church. The scruples which he had expressed to the House on his own account were held by millions of their fellow-countrymen; and he, therefore, maintained that the House ought to pause before it held out a temptation which might induce many of them to abandon their principles, and which would confer a monopoly of benefit upon the Established church if they did not abandon them. He lamented that in a session, in which the house was overwhelmed with business of the most urgent necessity, this scheme had been thrown in as an apple of discord to excite all the elements of strife, and to send them back with exasperated feelings to deliberate on the best means of relieving the distresses of their fellow-countrymen.

Sir GEORGE GREY then entered into an elaborate vindication of the scheme before the House. He could not regard Mr. Bright as an authority as to the opinions of Nonconformists, when he recollected that many of the most eminent men and writers connected with the Nonconformist body had expressed opinions in reference to education utterly at war with those which had that evening been delivered by the honourable member for Durham. As to the exclusion of the Roman Catholics from the benefits of the grant, he was ready to admit that the complaints of that body were well founded. He was happy to find that the House entertained but one opinion as to the injustice and impolicy of their exclusion, and would gladly lend his aid, in DEFERENCE TO THE PUBLIC VOICE, in altering the Minutes of Council which operated so unjustly in reference to a large portion of their fellow-countrymen. He then warned the Dissenters against the imprudence and danger of opposing the scheme now presented to them, without offering an alternative. Mr. Roebuck had certainly offered what, in his opinion, was the proper alternative; but the scheme offered by the honourable and learned gentleman was utterly impracticable.

Mr. HINDLEY claimed a right to be heard, even at that late hour of the night, as he had presented 740 petitions on the subject which was then before the House. He admitted that the Dissenters had not taken the most prudent course on this occasion, but contended that Lord J. Russell should have recollected the past services which they had rendered to the great cause of civil and religious liberty, and should not have castigated them with such merciless severity. He carefully separated himself from the political Dissenters of Mr. Baines's school, and confessed that, whether it was owing to the incapacity of his own intellect, or to some other cause, he had been unconvinced by all the sophistries and fallacies which had emanated from that quarter. He could not, however, concur in these Minutes. He thought that they ought to be modified in several important particulars; and, above all, he thought that the Voluntary principle—which had not yet failed—ought to have been tried for a year longer.

On the motion of Sir W. CLAY, the debate was then adjourned till Thursday.

In the earlier part of the evening Lord J. RUSSELL moved for and obtained leave to bring in a bill for amending several acts for the appointment of ecclesiastical commissioners for England. The noble lord postponed his statement in reference to this measure until the bill came up for the second reading.

Mr. WAKLEY moved for and obtained leave to bring in a bill to provide for the registration of legally qualified practitioners in medicine, and to amend the law relating to medicine in Great Britain and Ireland.

Mr. LABOUCHERE again postponed his motion to bring in a bill for the reclamation of waste lands in Ireland until Tuesday next.

In the House of Lords the Marquis of WESTMOUTH was obliged, by the opposition of Government, to withdraw the motion for the second reading of his bill to restrain the waste of land in Ireland.

THE IRISH POOR LAW is not yet safe. In the House of Peers, it is not improbable that an attempt to nullify the measure will succeed, and it is certain that such an attempt will be made. We are told, and there is every reason for believing, that Lord STANLEY is to renew the manoeuvre of Lord G. BENTINCK. The clause which was nearly carried in the Lower House, will be proposed, and in all probability will be carried in the Upper. This will seal the fate of the bill as effectually as if it had been summarily kicked out; nay, it is a more effective plan than rejection would have been, for rejection would only have ensured repetition.—*Times*.

The Young Men's petition against the Government Education Scheme, which was presented to the House of Commons on Monday evening, was signed by upwards of 7000 persons.

THE EDINBURGH PETITION, with 17,443 signatures attached, was sent off on Thursday evening to Mr. Bright, M.P., for presentation; Messrs. Macaulay and Craig, the city members, having stated to the committee that they could not support its prayer.—*Scotsman*.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
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THE Publishing Office of the *Nonconformist* is now removed to 4, Horse Shoe-court, Ludgate-hill; where all Communications to the Editor and Publisher should in future be addressed. All remittances and post-office orders should be made payable to Charles Miall.

THOSE of our subscribers who have not received from their news-agents the extra number of Friday last, containing a full report of the proceedings of the Educational Conference at Crosby Hall, and of the Aggregate Meeting at Exeter Hall, and who still wish to have it, may obtain the same by sending six postage stamps to the office direct.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A True Friend of the Society" should send his communication to the *Baptist Magazine*. We return it, according to his request.

Communications from Montrose, Seaton, and Greenock, received and attended to.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1847.

SUMMARY.

THE debate on the Minutes of Council has commenced—and we do no more than jot down the thoughts which its progress hitherto has obtruded upon our minds. Lord John Russell introduced the question, in a speech which, for complete evasion of the principle at issue, for self-complacent assumption of practical statesmanship, and for haughty, aristocratic derision of conscientious objections, can hardly find a parallel. The Whig Premier—apt representative therein of his party—deems it sufficient justification of his present proposal to recount the history of the educational movements to which Whig tactics have managed until now to gain Parliamentary assent. This seems, indeed, to be a staple method with the statesmen of that party. They usually manage by some smuggling, huckstering, side-wind arrangement, too small to awaken alarm, to establish a doubtful principle without exposing themselves to danger—and when fairly seated in power, or fancying that they are so, they proceed to the legislative development of that principle, on the assumption that they have no need to make good their main position—that it has been unanimously conceded—that it needs, therefore, no discussion—that it is ground upon which all parties may proceed with safety. The real gist of the matter is avoided, in the first instance, by the utter insignificance of the demand—in the last, by pleading that the demand having been already assented to, difference of opinion must affect, not the principle involved, but merely the limits by which its operation shall be bounded. There is a seeming necessity inherent in the Whigs to be mean—to begin in a snivelling, what they intend to finish in an impudent, fashion—to hook the unwary, and then to taunt them—to ask support for themselves, and then to plead that support, rendered too thoughtlessly, against all who have been prevailed upon to prefer a party to a principle. Ungrateful, to a proverb—always oblivious of the means by which they have climbed to office—disposed, beyond any other faction, to kick the friends who have aided them, and to taunt them with the concessions to which, in the hour of party distress and peril, they consented—they have ever been what they now are—the proudest, the shallowest, the most selfish, the least scrupulous,—in a word, the most out and out aristocratic, of all political factions. They have used Dissenters as long as it suits their purpose—they now cast them away with a sort of reproach upon their lips that ever the Dissenters should suffer themselves to have been used. Lord John Russell's speech was full of this. He could not see a single principle now contended for, which Dissenters, had not, in days gone by, given up in support of him and his—and however conscience might be pleaded, he could not understand the mode of its working. Ah! This is the reward of those who have bowed down to Whiggery, and cried, "These be thy gods, O Israel." The sinners may need a scourge—but the scourge by which they are smitten may be unworthy of more respect than the jaw-bone of an ass.

The leader having taken credit for the principle involved, and the particular mode of its manifestation, as a matter of course, the great philosophic gun of the party, Mr. Macaulay is let off and puffs out such a blinding volume of smoke and noise, that the House is expected to surrender at discretion. And yet, the member for Edinburgh seldom sounds the deeps of a question—never touches upon ultimate principles. He proves popular ignorance—he paints pictorial scenes of popular insubordination—and he jumps to the conclusion that the two things are as cause and effect, and that the way to dissipate ignorance is to establish State schools. Profound Philosopher! He admires, he cites the example set us in

the matter of education by America—but he does not tell us, that in America, where education is amply furnished by the State, mob-law, riot, intolerance of a minority, incendiarism, and even murder, sanctioned alas! by public feeling, connived at by the magistracy, conducted by middle-class blackguardism, are far more common than in this empire. He may sketch Gordon riots, Bristol conflagrations, and rural excesses—he may do this with the pencil of a consummate draftsman—but what then? What has this to do with Government education? Are such things necessarily prevented by the communication of knowledge? How, then, does it happen that in America the panacea does not, and will not work—and that even in the very seat of democracy, reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography, do not prevent mobs from proceeding to the most deplorable, and outrageous extremities? Let Mr. Macaulay answer that! He is a Statesman forsooth—let him show his reasons for believing that the remedy which has failed in America, must needs succeed in Great Britain.

But let us do the right honourable gentleman justice. He philosophises. He takes, for the nonce, that definition of the object of Government which limits it to the protection of person and property. He argues the importance of education in reference to these ends—and he concludes with a bouncing Q. E. D. that education by the State is beneficial. Softly, philosopher. Softly, lest you prove too much! The motives to crime are various—its causes are numerous beyond your calculation. If Government is bound to prevent crime, it must, of course, aim at the motives which give birth to it. But amongst the foremost of them is squalid misery—poverty, which although it amounts not to absolute destitution, presents the strongest possible temptation to an infraction of law. Make the "common people," as you term them, easy in their circumstances, give them a taste of comfort, shield them from fear of starvation, or what, to many of them is more formidable, the Union House, and you will do far more to put down crime than by school-education—far more to prevent it. And now suppose from such premises we were to draw the conclusion, that it is the duty of the Government, to whom is committed the protection of person and property, to fulfil their mission, by making the poor happy—what would Mr. Macaulay say? Why he would talk of clap-trap, and the "bray of Exeter-hall." He would do, what he does now—assume all his points instead of proving them, dress up his illustrations instead of selecting them for their aptitude, and jeer at his opponents, save the mark! for their want of philosophy. The Government is anxious to diminish crime, is it? Right glad are we to hear it. We shall now cherish some hope of the abolition of the Game Laws which, in rural districts, are the great instrument of demoralization—and of a fair adjustment of taxation, the want of which aggravates if it does not originate very much of that poverty out of which crime proceeds.

Whilst we are upon the point of the philosophy of providing education for the poor by the agency of Government, we must notice Mr. Roebuck, who, denying for himself that he had ever entertained the opinion that it was not the duty of the Government to educate the people, ventured to assert that no class of persons whose sentiments deserved attention entertained any such opinions. Sir George Grey, in irony, we suppose, referred to the numerous petitions which had been laid upon the table; to which Mr. Roebuck did not condescend to give a reply. And who is Mr. Roebuck, that he should thus put the foot of scorn upon a numerous body of the people, who have given reasons for the belief which they profess? What is the worth of his dictum, that it should counterbalance all the arguments which have been advanced on this subject? The self-complacency of these would-be statesmen is perfectly ludicrous. They utter the decisions of their judgment with oracular authority, and expect all men to submit their reason to the faith thus promulgated. With all deference to the member for Bath, we must aver that, however undeserving of attention may be the class of persons to whom he alludes, their arguments are such as it would redound to his credit to refute, if he could. Mr. Roebuck strongly objected to the Government scheme, and will doubtless vote against it. But it is a remarkable fact that, up to the present time, not one of the main objections advanced by Dissenters, has been so much as alluded to by any speaker. Mr. Duncombe, who led the Opposition, attacked with spirit the most vulnerable points in the Minutes of Council, but he did not grapple with the serious evils which the scheme involves; and, unless Mr. Bright should fitly and strongly represent the mind of Protestant Dissenters on this matter, the House of Commons will probably be left in utter ignorance of the principles upon which their opposition is founded. The debate was adjourned, and will probably last over till towards the conclusion of the week.

The only other Parliamentary matter necessary to be noticed, is the unexpected throwing out of Mr. Watson's Roman Catholic Relief Bill, by a majority of 39. What may be the special meaning of this movement we cannot at present divine; but, coupled with the exclusion of Roman Catholics from all benefits to be derived from the public funds in aid of education, it breeds in our minds a suspicion, that the Whigs, with a view to carry out their own purposes, are willing to connive at a revival of the "no Popery" cry.

Of the Conference held at Crosby Hall, of whose proceedings we gave a full report in our extra number

of Friday, it will be needless for us here to speak—needless, also, to comment upon the moral power which was concentrated in the magnificent meeting held at Exeter Hall, on Thursday evening. Thus much we rejoice in being able to testify. The tone of both assemblies was hearty—the ground taken was unequivocal—and the practical measures agreed upon were such as to cut off, for ever, all alliance between the Whigs and the Dissenters. For our own part we can only marvel at the rapidity with which opinion has ripened upon this question, and augur from it the encouraging expectation, that, within a few months, the movement against anti-state-churchism will become sufficiently powerful to command respectful attention, even from supercilious and aristocratic statesmen.

The most interesting item of foreign news is the opening of the Prussian Diet, which took place at Berlin, on Sunday week, with great ecclesiastical pomp. The act itself is one of those events which mark an era in the history of the present century—one whose future bearing upon the progress of German freedom, it is almost impossible to over-estimate. The manner it was gone through is a singular specimen of royal conceit. The King, in his elaborate speech delivered extempore, entered his caveat against all those notions of constitutional relationship between sovereign and people, which Western Europe is in the habit of recognising, and was at great pains to inform his Parliament that their powers were to be exceedingly circumscribed—that the object of their being convened was not to preserve or protect the interests of the nation, but to carry into effect the wishes of King Frederick William. The whole proceedings of the day seem to have been designed to prove the power, eloquence, and condescension of the sovereign. Happily, however, the Diet is invested with powers, limited though they be at present, which may speedily be turned to good account. With a partial control over the purse-strings, and the publication of their debates the Prussian Diet will be able to exercise an influence which will be more than a match for the arbitrary predilections of their sovereign, and enable them to exercise a real control over the decisions of the government.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE NOW?

THE last few weeks have been busily occupied by Dissenters in the work of political excitation. Using the Minutes of Council as a rubber, and plying them with unusual vigour, they have elicited a state of feeling throughout their own body, which, for the first time in their recent history, assumes a positive and independent character. Amongst men who have, until now, piqued themselves on their moderation, in circles once supposed impervious to extreme counsels, there is diffused an element of stern decision, which, escaping, now and then, in indignant flashes, reveals a sudden and remarkable change in the atmosphere of Nonconformity. We own to having been taken somewhat by surprise. Scarcely yet can we believe for joy. An agitation based upon broad and ultimate principles—neither seeking nor admitting of the most distant approach to compromise—proceeding to the manly renunciation of cherished political ties—and resolutely adjourning the controversy to the hustings—is what we did not expect Dissent to produce, until it had served its time in a long apprenticeship. Such an amount of latent energy, evolved, too, with such wonderful rapidity, astounds us. That there existed, somewhere or other, a rich vein of undeveloped sturdiness, we more than suspected. We have laboured long and unweariedly to reach it, but with very partial success. The Government scheme of education, like an upheaving earthquake, has riven asunder the mass of prejudice beneath which it lay buried, and has bared it to the light of day. The flash from the thunder-cloud, which terrified Crusoe, but gave him that invaluable blessing, fire, was not more alarming, nor more beneficial to him, than the Whig assault upon their educational institutions will be to the Dissenters. Fire has been kindled—it will surely be no impracticable task to keep it burning.

It must be obvious to all, that much depends upon our turning at once the strong current of feeling into a practical channel. It is not in human nature to sustain long-continued excitement. The energies which are now awakened must be set promptly to work. Action, and action only, will preserve the tone of our minds at the present pitch of determination. We must have something feasible to do, and that immediately, if we would keep alive our zeal and courage. An opportunity, happily, is not wanting. We are on the threshold of a general election. To put ourselves in a state of preparation for it is our present and paramount duty. How best can it be fulfilled?

It is important, above all other things, that Dissenting electors should have a very distinct and impressive idea of the object at which their position calls upon them to aim. That object we take to be at once simple and comprehensive—to bear credible testimony to their interest in their own principles. Providence has clearly summoned them to witness to the truth—and has marked, as if with especial emphasis, the occasion on which this obligation is to be discharged. The rebuke they have received for their fond trust in political party, warns them against a repetition of that fatal mistake. The very men whom they lifted into power have smitten them. To them, consequently, there can be no practical distinction between Whig and Tory, merely as such. In reference to our principles, they occupy the same position; and it is one of fixed hostility. From their contests

it behoves us to stand aloof. Be the issue what it may, we are absolved from all responsibility. The primary concern, therefore, of every Nonconforming elector, if he would worthily act his part in the now complicated drama, should be, not to win an election, nor to display strength, nor to avenge treachery, but, with the utmost singleness of intention, to do public honour to principles publicly desecrated—to abide steadfastly by what our statesmen are striving to corrupt and to vilify. This we apprehend to be the sacred trust which Divine Providence has specially committed to them. Politicians, almost without exception, are agreed in their purpose to degrade Christianity, wherever and in whatever form exemplified, into an instrument of civil government. Their intentions are disclosed. They have begun to carry them into effect. It is our duty both to God and man to stand clear of all participation in this iniquity. Come weal, come woe, we must enter a calm, but determined protest against this wrong, by refusing all aid towards its perpetration. Not a vote should be given which may be tortured into silent connivance at the crying evil of the times.

Recognising this as their solemn duty, and adopting it as their high and honourable purpose, we advise the instant formation in every borough, and where practicable, in every electoral division of a county, of a committee who shall take upon themselves the charge of carrying it into effect. There are three methods by which this may be done, the choice of which must be determined by local circumstances—or more properly, local strength, which, of course, it will be the first effort of such committee to ascertain.

There are boroughs, few though they be, in which Dissenters may seek to do honour to their principles, by putting forward and supporting candidates known to be devoted to them, capable of expounding them, and morally pledged to promote them in Parliament. In some cases two such candidates, in others, one, may be invited to stand. Men of the right stamp, we cannot allow ourselves to doubt, are to be found—but they will need to be sought out with great diligence as well as caution. In order to success in the search, however, two or three rules should be borne in mind. The electors should charge themselves with the expenses of the contest which, if they be resolutely confined to legal liabilities, will, in no case, be overwhelming, and, in some instances, a mere trifle. They must be manly enough, moreover, to content themselves with a candidate, recommended neither by his rank nor his wealth—possessed of no attraction but integrity of character, sound principles, average ability, and thorough common sense. And should they succeed in finding a man whom they can support, they must resist all negotiation or, in other words, electioneering chicanery, and carry him to the poll. To do this effectively, they will probably have neither time, strength, nor funds, for a noisy warfare. They will want no flaming placards, which, expensive as they are, seldom win a single vote. They may avoid all bustle, which besides its cost, involves a waste of energy. They must determine to be felt rather than seen—and by an intelligent distribution of labour, must aim to get quietly at the conscience of every nonconforming elector in the district, and impress upon it a religious sense of duty. All this, we know, will demand large sacrifices—but, often as they have been made for a mere partizan, they cannot reasonably be withheld from an outraged principle.

In the large majority of boroughs, however, a contest of this kind will be impracticable. But there is yet left open a field for honourable exertion. The committee may seek support, not for a candidate, but for a violated truth. They may solicit *abstinence from voting*, where votes cannot more positively witness on behalf of the Church's freedom. This testimony will speak loudly. In about sixty party-contests at the last general election, terminating in the return to Parliament of above a hundred members, the majority polled will be found to have ranged within the narrow limits of from three to thirty. In every one of these instances the scales were held by the nonconforming electors—and will probably be held so again at the ensuing election. By merely standing aloof from a strife which touches not their interests, nor the interest of genuine liberty, we may unseat a hundred men for having carried themselves with insolence toward the principles we avow and cherish. The moral of such a result would be more impressive than the most vehement and exhausting agitation. Both parties—they who lost and they who accidentally profited, by our stern fidelity, would cease to treat with neglect and contumely a truth thus exemplified. The moment we are found to do sincere homage to our own profession, that profession will be regarded by others with respect.

There is one other method by which Dissenting electors may bear testimony to their distinctive principles at the ensuing general election—a method which may be resorted to with great propriety in some cases—but to which we cannot say that we are specially inclined. Members now sitting may be screwed up to the mark. Here and there the necessity which forces them to speak out will not be an unwelcome one, for some have already thought what they will be compelled to utter. In many instances, politicians will be driven to reflection. In almost all, to a recognition of the power of that principle which demands their sanction and support. The local committee will be most competent to determine which of the three plans we have suggested will best serve the cause to which we have pledged our troth.

We have already exceeded our limits, and we will

not enlarge. The times summon us to a noble, but a trying conflict. All will have to consent to some sacrifice. In the main, we are now one—and our unity is based upon our resolution to assert independence. The day of battle is at hand. In the metropolis, and by the gentlemen most prominent in the recent Conference, arrangements are being made to act, as well as to threaten, in this matter. Meanwhile, we entreat our friends to be everywhere on the alert—and to prove how fully they enter into the belief, that to make preparations for the coming election is, above and beyond all other things, "What is to be done now."

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT GRANTS.

At the present juncture, I believe it right to republish the following letter, which, in the spring of 1845, I addressed "To the Subscribers of the British and Foreign School Society."

"Having long held the opinion that pecuniary grants, for the purpose of religious instruction in schools and colleges, from the general taxation of the country, were unsound in principle, I rejoice that recent circumstances have brought the subject under consideration in a manner to command a fuller and more general investigation of it than it has ever before received. The conviction is now widely spreading amongst different Christian denominations that such grants are not only opposed to the voluntary principle, but that they are a direct infringement of the rights of private conscience, the practical evils of which are greatly aggravated when any particular sect receives exclusive privileges from the State.

"Under these circumstances, the surprise and regret which has been felt at the recent conclusion of the committee of the British and Foreign School Society to accept a part of their expenses from the Government, will, doubtless, be shared by a much more numerous portion of their supporters than would have been the case at any former period.

"A distinction is drawn by many between national property appropriated to the support of schools, where the religious instruction is confined to the authorised English translation of the Scriptures, and the examination and comments upon it are entrusted to teachers selected by a managing committee, composed of persons of different religious denominations, and grants made to colleges or schools connected with particular religious persuasions. On a candid examination, it will, however, be found that it is impossible to impart any religious instruction, supported from a tax upon the whole people, without a violation of the same principle in the one case as the other; and, at a meeting of the friends of the British and Foreign School Society, convened by the committee themselves, last year, embracing those who were considered most entitled to give them advice and counsel, it was evident the feeling was so decidedly opposed to the receipts of any Government aid, that a motion to leave it to the committee to accept it or not was withdrawn.

"Much as I deplore the step the Committee has taken, I have never been so fully identified with the active labours of the Institution as to consider it to be my duty to move a resolution at the approaching general meeting against it; yet, in finally withdrawing from a Society to which I have for many years subscribed, and in the welfare of which I have long felt a deep interest, I consider it right thus to state my reasons for so doing. All past history, I believe, proves that institutions partly supported by voluntary, and partly by compulsory pecuniary aid, do not permanently prosper; and, if the latter is resorted to at all, it is much better that the whole should be derived from this source. There is no reason which can be urged in favour of the Government paying a part, which does not apply to the whole; and the effects of the *Regium Donum* show that a small annual Government grant may make the recipients subservient to the State. It must, also, be obvious that the voluntary principle cannot be thus infringed upon without paralyzing it; for those who are taxed for the support of an institution cannot be expected willingly, also, to subscribe to it. The objection, however, of paramount importance is, that it is a violation of the rights of conscience towards all who contribute to the taxation of the country, and who are honestly opposed to any part of the religious instruction given in the schools.

"The country is now in great excitement in consequence of the proposed grant to the College of Maynooth, and many of the subscribers to the British and Foreign School Society are probably amongst its most decided opponents; but could not a Roman Catholic find grounds of equal validity, to object to the grant made to the Borough-road School? It must be evident, that any who are willing to accept Government aid, for the dissemination of their own views of truth, cannot consistently object to similar grants to their Roman Catholic fellow-subjects, or to Jews, or even Mahomedans, and Hindoos.

"It is deeply to be regretted that the Committee have surrendered the high ground so long maintained by the Society, of giving a Scriptural education, aided only by voluntary contributions,—and the importance of which was greater, on account of the standard it upheld, than even the extent of the instruction it imparted. I hope, however, that they who can no longer support the Society, in its new position, will feel called upon, in an especial manner, to promote education in their respective localities; and should the unfavourable anticipations of the result of the step now taken by the Committee be realized, it should never be forgotten that the labours of the British and Foreign School Society, have been an inestimable blessing to the present generation.

"Birmingham, "Very respectfully,
"4th Month (April) 24th, 1845. "JOSEPH STURGE."

Believing that the British and Foreign School Society have been paralyzed in any effort for resisting the Government measure, by taking the pecuniary grant to which the foregoing letter alludes, and by thus compromising the voluntary principle, on which, for many years they solely relied, I cannot but hope, that at the special meeting of the subscribers, which I understand is likely to be summoned, that they will call upon the Committee to retrace a step taken, not only without the sanction of the subscribers at large, but contrary to the known opinions of many of them. It will be seen that I withdrew my connexion with the Society at the time I published the foregoing letter, and, therefore, am not entitled to attend the meeting, but if a proposition should be carried to return the money, I should be glad to subscribe to a fund for that purpose.

Birmingham,
4th Month, 10th, 1847.

I am, respectfully,
JOSEPH STURGE.

THE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

FOURTH DAY, FRIDAY, APRIL 16.

The Conference of Delegates to oppose the Government plan of education re-assembled at the King's Head, Poultry, on Friday morning. The meeting was much smaller than that held on the previous day at Crosby-hall, and consisted chiefly of the members of the Central Committee, and some of the more prominent leaders of the present agitation. At ten o'clock, the chair was taken by Mr. S. Green, Baptist minister.

It was understood that this meeting was held for the purpose of winding up the proceedings of the Conference.

G. W. ALEXANDER, Esq., submitted a proposition for raising a fund for the purpose of carrying out their objects. He proposed that the fund he contemplated should, when raised, be applicable to the following three purposes:—

First, to oppose the Government scheme of education; secondly, to enable schools which had received the Government money to repay it if they wished to do so; thirdly, to establish schools on the voluntary system in poor districts. He urged the advantage that would result from carrying this plan into effect, and he would himself be a willing contributor. Should a sum of £10,000 be raised, he would subscribe £100; if the sum should be raised to £20,000, he would advance his subscription to £200.

He hoped that, on next Monday, the delegates would crowd the lobby of the House of Commons, and speak to the members as they passed in, and he thought that their doing so would exercise a most beneficial influence.

Some conversation ensued on the subject of Mr. Alexander's proposition, but it led to no practical result.

The business of the meeting was then proceeded with, and the minutes of the Conference were referred for revision to the Central Committee.

Mr. D. WIRE, of London, proposed that a letter should be sent to Lord J. Russell to inquire of the noble lord whether the semi-official pamphlet, understood to have been written by Mr. Kay Shuttleworth, was in reality an official and authorized exposition of the views of the Government. After some conversation the suggestion was declined, as likely to lead to no practical result. It was then proposed and agreed to, that Mr. Hinton and Mr. Hare should be appointed to revise and publish the resolutions of the Conference.

Mr. WIRE proposed, that means should be adopted to raise funds to defray the expenses of the Conference. In the course of the observations to which this proposition gave rise, it was stated that the committee had £130 in hand, and that their liabilities were £100 more. It was considered that a further sum of £200 would be required to defray the expenses that had been and would be incurred.

Mr. MORLEY thought that not less than £600 should be raised, and that their friends in the country should be incited to assist the London movement.

A committee, to consist of five persons, to consider of "the ways and means," and manage the financial matters, was then appointed. The following delegates were chosen to form the committee:—Mr. S. Morley, Mr. G. W. Alexander, Mr. J. Sturge, Mr. D. Wire, and Mr. C. Reed.

It was then proposed and agreed to, that the Conference, at its rising, should adjourn to Tuesday next, to meet at ten o'clock on that day at the King's-head, Poultry.

Dr. MASSIE proposed a resolution to the effect that the explanation of Lord J. Russell, in reply to the question of Sir J. Graham, so far from lessening their objections to the Government plan caused them to regard it with increased apprehension and alarm.

After some discussion the resolution moved by Dr. Massie was agreed to and passed in an amended form, as follows:—

That the explanation made in the House of Commons, by Lord J. Russell, in answer to questions from Sir J. Graham, relative to the Minutes of the Committee of Council on education on Thursday evening, the 15th inst., gives increased countenance to the belief that the Government is acting a disingenuous part, with a view of propitiating the Roman Catholics on the one side, and the Wesleyans and a section of the Established Church on the other side; and that this affords another illustration of the evils and dangers of entrusting the great interests of education and religion to a committee of council, which may vary its policy and principles from day to day to suit a temporary expediency.

In order to mark more strongly the feeling of the meeting, it was unanimously resolved that this resolution should be published without delay in the following newspapers:—*The Morning Chronicle, Times, Globe, Sun, Patriot, and the Nonconformist.*

After some discussion the following resolution, proposed by Mr. E. BAINES, was carried:—

That this Conference, in its deep sense of the evils which threaten the country if the Government measure with respect to education be carried into effect, and with the full knowledge they possess of the views of their constituents, feel themselves warranted and constrained to declare their conviction that the opposition to the interference of Government with popular education can never cease until the appointment of the Committee of Council shall have been revoked, and also to declare their hope and expectation that committees will be organized throughout the country for promoting agitation in every constitutional method for the attainment of this object.

Mr. CONDER moved the following resolution, which, after considerable discussion, was adopted:—

That this Conference on the present occasion, seeing the lamentable deficiency of representatives in Parliament possessing competent knowledge of the distinguishing principles of Protestant Dissenters, actuated by a due appreciation of their interests as affected by the Government scheme of education, earnestly recommend the formation of a central committee for watching over and promoting those interests at the general election, such committee to be composed of gentlemen, residing in different parts of the country, who shall hold their regular meetings as a central committee from time to time in London, with local sub-committees, who may be empowered to act in the interim.

Mr. CONDER then proposed a resolution for carrying the former resolution into effect.

This led to a long conversation of no general interest, and the final decision upon the resolution was postponed to Tuesday, the 19th.

After some routine business, the meeting adjourned to Tuesday, at ten o'clock.

FIFTH DAY—TUESDAY, APRIL 20.

On Tuesday morning, at ten o'clock, the Conference re-assembled at the King's Head, Poultry. D. W. Wise, Esq., was called to the chair. The attendance of delegates was much more numerous than at the previous meeting; between sixty and seventy persons being present. Amongst the gentlemen present we observed Dr. Price, T. Blackburn, Esq., of Liverpool; N. Griffin, Esq., S. Morley, Esq., E. Miall, Esq., James Carter, Esq., H. Rutt, Esq., Isaac Sewell, Esq., Josiah Conder, Esq., J. M. Hare, Esq., Rev. Joseph Rothey, G. W. Alexander, Esq., Thomas Spalding, Esq., G. W. Harrison, Esq., and the following ministers: Dr. Massie, and Messrs. J. H. Hinton, R. Ainslie, Wycherly, of Tring, H. Richards, B. Woodyard, A. Reed, of Norwich, F. Trestrail, S. Green, J. H. Ryland, J. L. Poore, of Salford, &c., &c.

With regard to the resolution adopted at the last meeting, on the subject of a Central Electoral Committee, Mr. Conder reported that he had communicated with various influential parties throughout the country, almost all of whom had expressed themselves favourable to the plan proposed, and many of whom readily consented to become members of the Committee. Amongst these were C. Robertson, Esq., of Liverpool; S. Bowley, Esq., of Gloucester; J. H. Tillett, Esq., of Norwich; J. Willanes, Esq., of Huddersfield; J. W. Smith, Esq., of Sheffield; — Crossly, Esq., of Halifax; H. Forbes, Esq., of Bradford; — Leeman, Esq., of York; Alderman Kershaw, of Manchester, &c., &c.

Mr. E. BAINES, jun., thought that nothing could show more strongly the necessity of some such movement, than the debate of the previous evening in the House of Commons. Throughout there was not one single allusion to the distinctive principle upon which Dissenters opposed the Government measure.

Mr. BLACKBURN, of Liverpool, would be happy to act on the committee, and to do all in his power to carry out its object in his own locality. He believed there would shortly be held a county meeting at Newton, to consult on the steps to be taken at the next general election.

Dr. PRICE, while insisting upon the importance of the object proposed, thought the matter too serious to have been determined upon by the adjourned meeting, on Friday, at which there were not above twenty-five persons present, and only nine voted upon the resolution—five in its favour, and four against it. Nor did he think they were competent to do so. He thought many of the five hundred persons who attended the Conference, at Crosby-hall, would strongly object to being implicated in such a resolution to which they were not parties. He moved a resolution that no proceedings be taken on the subject.

Mr. E. MIALL supported Dr. Price's views. He was heartily disposed to take the steps proposed, but did not like the means. Why should they not resolve themselves into a Central Election Committee, at once, without connecting it with the Conference? They might then do what they pleased. If such a course were adopted, he would heartily co-operate; if not, he should feel obliged to decline any participation in the movement.

A discussion of some length then ensued, in which the various speakers showed a strong desire to come to some resolution on the subject; and eventually the views of all parties were met by the proposal of the following resolution which (the previous resolution having been withdrawn) was moved by Dr. PRICE; seconded by Mr. AINSLIE; and carried *nem con*:—

That, in order to promote the practical efficiency of the resolutions of this Conference on the subject of the formation of a central committee, with respect to the ensuing general election, members of the Conference now present, as many as consent thereto, do forthwith resolve themselves into such committee, with power to add to their number.

From the conversation which took place it was understood, that the election committee was to have reference only to the coming general election, and that its meetings were to be held as seldom as possible, in order to prevent the necessity of the too frequent attendance of country members.

Messrs. Carter and Morley were then appointed as a deputation to wait upon gentlemen to solicit subscriptions for defraying the expenses of the Conference.

Mr. WYCHERLY stated, that a member of his congregation had entrusted him with £5, and another with 10s., for the Conference fund. If all other congregations would do as much, they would have no cause to complain of their expenses.

After some conversation, it was determined that a statement of the expenses of the Conference, apart from the Central Committee, should be prepared and published by the Finance Committee. Mr. Carter announced a subscription of £10 from the Chairman [cheers].

Mr. BAINES then offered a few remarks on the debate of the previous evening in the House of Commons. He trusted that, if the Minutes were passed, they would not consider their work done—that they would not allow them to take root. He hoped they would still keep up agitation. He viewed the result with serious alarm; but trusted they would still adhere to their principles, and refuse to touch the Government money. Their great object must be, to prevent Dissenters accepting the bribe; and he hoped, that in the West Riding of Yorkshire, as well as in Lancashire, some decided steps would be taken in reference to this subject. Mr. Baines then went on to comment with much effect upon the general tone of the debate in the House of Commons, and especially the speeches of Lord J. Russell and Mr. Macaulay. Their compromise with the Wesleyans he described as offensive, because contemptible—unworthy of Ministers of the Crown or of patriotic men. He concluded by moving the following resolution:—

That the cordial thanks of the Conference be presented to T. S.

Duncombe, Esq., M.P., and to Viscount Duncan, M.P., for their able and patriotic speeches in moving and seconding the amendment to the motion of Lord John Russell, on Monday evening, in the House of Commons.

Mr. AINSLIE, in seconding the resolution, offered a few remarks on the debate. He thought it absolutely necessary something should be done with regard to the British and Foreign School Society. Everything would now depend upon their own exertions in the cause of education. They must be prepared to make great sacrifices, or they would be unable to counteract the efforts of Government.

Mr. G. W. HARRISON, of Leeds (Wesleyan), dwelt upon the baneful influence of all endowments whether for religion or education, and the importance of active exertion in every borough, with a view to the next election. They must give no support to the Whigs. Let them prefer the greatest Tory to the man who, with Liberal professions, paid no respect to their consciences. He trusted they would on all occasions assert the real principles of Nonconformity.

Mr. WIRE being obliged to withdraw Mr. Baines was called to the chair.

Some conversation then ensued on the most desirable steps to be taken, in order to dissuade Dissenters from touching the Government money. It was urged that a series of public meetings, commencing with one to be held immediately in London, at which the statements of Ministers, in the House of Commons, might be answered, would be attended with much good—that, if London only set the example, the country would soon follow—and that it was only necessary to keep the public fully enlightened on the nature of the measure and the designs of Ministers, and they need not anticipate so much serious evil from the passing of the Minutes.

Mr. RYLANDS paid a compliment to Lord Duncan for his spirited speech, which, more than any other during the debate, took the right ground.

Mr. BLACKBURN felt encouraged that the principles upon which Dissenters opposed the measure were not adverted to in the debate. It was a proof that they could not be gainsaid. The object of the Government was evident:—

Satan now is wiser than before,
And tempts by making rich, not making poor.

He almost regretted that their principles had not been put more prominently forward; and, perhaps, they were to blame. Now, at all events, they were called upon to avow and stand by them. Let them take up the gauntlet thrown down by the Church and Government, and resolve on the separation of Church and State. He was not disposed to be disheartened because the measure was likely to be carried, or that some were likely to forsake them, and accept the money of the State. He did not think their schools would be destroyed. But they must be prepared to make larger pecuniary sacrifices—to render their schools more efficient, more self-supporting—and, perhaps, eventually, they might have no reason to regret the passing of the measure.

Mr. REED, of Norwich, thought they were too much dismayed at the prospect before them, and dwelt upon the importance of renewed efforts in the cause of education.

The CHAIRMAN hoped the Congregational Board of Education, and the Baptist Union, would, at their next meeting, pass resolutions condemning the reception of Government aid.

After a few remarks from Mr. RICHARDS, who said, that the wealthy members of their churches ought not only to refuse the grants, but afford pecuniary assistance to their brethren in poor country districts; the resolution was put and carried unanimously.

Mr. HARE said, that, with reference to the British and Foreign School Society, Mr. Sturge had lately put forth an appeal to the country subscribers, and that the response was as 5 to 1 against accepting Government aid.

Mr. WYCHERLY then proposed; and Mr. BLACKBURN seconded:—

That this Conference, at the close of the present sitting, be considered as dissolved; but that the members of this Conference be at liberty, and are requested, to attend the meetings of the Central Committee. That this Conference cannot finally separate without expressing its confidence in the zeal, discretion, and unwearied activity, displayed by the members of the Central Committee.

After some further conversation from which it appears, that members of the Conference are at perfect liberty to attend, and vote at the meetings of the Central Committee; the resolution was carried and the Conference dissolved.

DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.—It is rumoured that the dissolution of Parliament is fixed for the middle of June. In that case the elections will take place in July, so as to be over before harvest. The *Gateshead Observer* says, "The general election will take place in July. So said Mr. Hutt, on Tuesday, in addressing a convivial company, comprising many of his most influential constituents; and he spoke of the event not merely as probable, but as fixed and certain." "The rumours of an abrupt, or, at least, premature dissolution of Parliament continue" says the London Correspondent of the *Hants Independent*, "and assume the appearance of being by no means destitute of foundation. The circumstances leading to this event are said to be connected with the unanticipated amount of resistance made to the education measure; the doubts now entertained as to the probability of the sanitary bill being carried through its various stages within a reasonable time; and the alleged concession by Government to the Irish landlords on the subject of Lord G. Bentinck's proposal to exact the whole of the Irish poor-rates from the occupiers; which latter concession would, it is said, be made in consideration of the relief bill being permitted to pass without further observation."

A LABOURER on the Nottingham and Lincoln railway has had a wonderful escape. As he was walking on the rails at night, a train came up at a rapid rate; the engine struck the man, and dashed him forward some ten yards; fortunately, he did not fall on the rails, but into a ditch, and he was taken up not much hurt.

THE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SCHEME.

IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE WESLEYANS OF NORWICH.

The *Norfolk News* publishes a report of a crowded meeting of the Wesleyans of Norwich, held in that city on Friday last. Mr. Joseph Massingham occupied the chair. He condemned the proceedings of the Conference Committee:—

On the morning of Tuesday last, he and his friends heard with the greatest dismay that the committee had resolved not to oppose the measure; so they met at their school-room, West Pottergate-street, to talk over their future course. They decided on calling that meeting, and in every other legitimate way to give their distinct and decided opposition to the Government scheme—a scheme which, he believed, would tend more to the destruction of the nonconformity of Wesleyans, and of the Dissenters generally, than any measure that had at any time been introduced. Previous to holding that meeting they waited on their respected Superintendent and invited him to preside, but he declined, and this led to his (Mr. M.'s) being called to the chair. Alluding to the refusal of one of their chapels for the purpose of holding that meeting, Mr. Massingham said—it is too bad that, after having built our chapels, and having for years defrayed the expenses attendant upon the worship of God therein, we should be refused one, to hold a meeting upon a question which did not involve an essential of Methodism, as to doctrine or ecclesiastical policy, but which, he would say without a blush, did involve the interests of Wesleyans with regard to their nonconformity.

He strongly condemned the compromise with Government—the appointment of a Wesleyan Government Inspector and the prospect of the relationship between Wesleyanism and the State. He concluded:—

They could not look into any quarter of the globe without seeing the beneficial results of the voluntary system. Why then should that be destroyed which was, in connexion with other kindred institutions, the glory of our land. In every part of this country they were up and acting in the cause. He felt that the whole country was waking up to the subject. The great question of the separation between Church and State had to be tried, and the decision, when it did come, would form a marked event in our history. The chairman then read a letter from Mr. S. Sadler, of North Walsham, in which he stated that there the leading men among the Wesleyans were as much opposed to the measure as elsewhere, and concluded by exhorting his friends to take their stand on that great principle—their entire and unqualified dissent from all interference of Government in matters of education and religion [very loud cheers].

Mr. FORD moved, and Mr. EGMORE seconded the first resolution, which was as follows:—

That this meeting deeply regret that the Committees of Education and Privileges connected with the Wesleyan body have not determined to oppose the educational scheme of the Government, and being convinced that it is fraught with manifold evils, feel it their duty to express publicly their disapprobation of the proposed measure, and their determination to resist it by all constitutional means.

Mr. EGMORE objected to the measure as a citizen, a Dissenter, and a Christian. He objected to it as a citizen. If the measure was carried it would employ no fewer than 88,000 persons in the Government service, full 20,000 more than the entire population of this city. In looking further, he objected to it not only as a citizen, but as a Dissenter. They were quite aware that in high Church places, and by high Churchmen, the Church was invariably extolled, and Dissent regarded as schism and sin. Though he believed there were many good men in the Establishment, yet he did maintain that a Church which was supported by State pay was not a Church to evangelize the world or to glorify God [hear, hear, and loud cheers]. He opposed this measure, not only as a citizen and Dissenter, but as a Christian, for he maintained it would promote intolerance, bigotry, and even irreligion itself. So from these three motives, he heartily opposed the proposed measure. He cordially seconded the resolution.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

The CHAIRMAN then introduced J. H. TILLET, Esq., who briefly expressed his pleasure at the good likely to arise from this meeting, and gave a sketch of the proceedings of the Educational Conference, from which he had just returned. In conclusion, Mr. Tillett said he held that religion should derive its support from the hearts of the people, and not from force or Acts of Parliament [hear, hear], and concluded by entreating the meeting to act in the struggle as becoming men, citizens, and Christians [great applause].

Mr. JAMES CLARKE moved the second resolution, proposing the adoption of a petition against the measure. He expressed his joy at the opportunity which their friends had thus given of proving that they were not any longer in "leading strings," but that they could think, and would act for themselves ["Hear," and applause].

Mr. COLMAN, of Holt, seconded this resolution. He gave a lucid description of the voluntary principle, as exemplified in the efforts of missionaries to carry salvation throughout the world; and replied to the assertion, that the quality of the education given by Voluntaries was inferior to that of the State-endowed schools—instancing Sunday-schools, day-schools, and ragged-schools, as proofs of his position that it was not inferior in quality. Mr. Colman then expressed his hope that many Wesleyans would be found at the coming Anti-state-church Conference. He then adverted to the further efforts making for voluntary education, and to many other topics of a kindred nature; and concluded by an appeal to Wesleyans, that, as they had now come out, where they ought to have been years ago, to proclaim their avowal of the voluntary principle, they should use their best efforts and their most powerful influence to bring other Wesleyans to join them in this glorious struggle. And, however this contest might terminate, one thing was certain,—Great was the truth, and it would prevail [cheers].

The second resolution was then put, and passed unanimously, and a very decided petition adopted against the measure.

The doxology having been sung, and the benediction pronounced, the large meeting (which had continued from half-past seven to ten o'clock) terminated. The meeting was throughout characterized by the well-

known liveliness and earnestness peculiar to the denomination, and augured well for a move in the right direction, by a powerful, intelligent, and numerous section of the Norwich Wesleyan Methodists. The Chairman, and the movers and seconders of the resolutions, are most influential members of the Wesleyan connexion in this city.

THE WESLEYANS AND THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME.

LORD MORPETH AND THE WESLEYANS.—A member of the Wesleyan body, in Wakefield, having written to Lord Morpeth, on the subject of State education, has received the following reply:—"Woods and Forests Office, 14th April, 1846.—Sir, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and am sorry I cannot concur in the opinions you express; but I am happy to know that my views harmonize with those of the Conference representing the influential and respectable body of which you are a member. I am, &c., MORPETH. To Mr. —, Wakefield."—*Manchester Guardian*.

THE WESLEYANS OF YORKSHIRE.—Great honour is due to those Wesleyans in Leeds, who this week resolved no longer to hold their peace. They felt that to do so would be to betray their own convictions. They have consequently spoken out with manly zeal, and have denounced the principle itself of State interference with popular education. While asserting the power of Methodism to maintain its own institutions, educational as well as religious, they object to the present Government measure because of its unfairness to the Roman Catholics: they cannot conscientiously pay for the inculcation of popery, but they will never consent that the Roman Catholics shall be taxed to support Methodism. By letters received from Huddersfield and Halifax, we are gratified to learn that meetings of Wesleyans have been summoned in those towns, and that congregational petitions will probably be resolved upon. One of the most influential members thus writes:—"Whatever qualifications may be proposed to our Committee, our objections are *immoveable*, as we repudiate altogether the interference of Government in the education of the people. This is the only safe and defensible position that can be taken."—*Leeds Mercury*.

DONCASTER.—On Wednesday evening a numerous meeting was held at Doncaster, on a requisition to the Mayor, to condemn the Government scheme of education. The Mayor presided. The first resolution, condemning all state interference with education, and especially the Minutes of Council, was moved by Mr. Johnson, Independent minister, and seconded by Mr. Hastie. Mr. J. T. Cooper (Unitarian) proposed an amendment, the substance of which was—an admission of the principle of the measure, but in favour of some modification of the details. Mr. Blagden, of Warmworth, seconded the amendment, which was supported by a working man named Grimshaw. Mr. Chadwick, of Arksey, spoke in favour of the resolution. Mr. G. B. Johnson then replied at considerable length. When the Mayor put the resolution and amendment to the meeting, the resolution was carried by a large majority. Petitions to both Houses of Parliament, embodying the resolution, were agreed to, and a vote of thanks to the Mayor concluded the business.

ROTHERHAM.—At six o'clock on Tuesday evening, a meeting, called by requisition of a number of the inhabitants of Rotherham and Masborough, in favour of the Government scheme of education, was held in the large sessions room at the Court-house. On the platform were the Rev. W. H. Stowell, Rev. Mr. Kelk, Rev. J. Hornby, and Rev. Mr. Scissons, James Yates, Esq., W. Whitfield, Esq., Mr. Wheatley, Mr. Guest, Mr. Haywood, &c. The chair was taken by Mr. J. Oxley. A resolution, approving of the Government plan, having been proposed, an amendment condemning it, moved by Mr. J. Yates, and seconded by Mr. W. Beatson, was carried by a tremendous majority, and amidst the loudest acclamation.—*Leeds Mercury*.

BRADFORD.—DISGRACEFUL PROCEEDINGS.—One of the most uproarious and party-packed meetings ever held in the town of Bradford, took place on Tuesday evening, in the Temperance-hall, in that town. The meeting was called by placard by the opponents of the Government scheme of education, with a view of affording the inhabitants, and particularly the working classes, an opportunity of hearing their explanation of the Minutes of Council on Education, and of answering any questions referring to the provisions and bearings of the measure. At the hour of commencement, the hall was crowded in every part. It was obvious that this unusual, and we may say unexpected, state of things, was the result of a preconcerted scheme; and it was equally obvious, from the excitement prevailing in a portion of the auditory, that many present had come for no other purpose than kicking up a row; this opinion was confirmed, when, upon the confusion and dust of the gathering crowd having subsided, it appeared that among those who had taken up conspicuous stations were those combined elements of mischief, Mr. Edward Hurley, Mr. George Coates, Mr. Squire Auty, and Mr. Tory—Chartist Smith. About half-past seven, the Rev. W. Scott, accompanied by Rev. F. Clowes, D. Fraser, T. Pottenger, R. Ingham, and Messrs. Cooke, R. Harrison, Walton, Rudd, Hanson, &c., entered the hall, and made their way to the platform, which was already occupied by Smith and his coadjutor, Hurley. Mr. Walter Scott was called to the chair, and after one or two speeches had been delivered all order was at an end. Confusion reigned triumphant; and not unfrequently three speakers were attempting to address the meeting at the same time, but to hear as many consecutive words was utterly impossible. Two or three motions were made, but of their purport many who held up their hands appeared totally ignorant, and the greatest disorder prevailed till about ten o'clock, when the Chairman declared the meeting dissolved. The announcement was received with groans and disapprobation, but the meeting evinced no desire to separate. (At length, about eleven o'clock, the hall-keeper mounted the platform and made the agreeable announcement that the hall would be in darkness in ten minutes. The assembly then very reluctantly dispersed. Before this

time, Mr. Scott and a party of his friends had left the hall, and a knot of the opposite party still possessed one side of the platform, anxious not to leave it till the originators of the meeting had disappeared.—Abridged from the *Bradford Observer*, a pro-State Educationist paper.

RAMSGATE.—A public meeting was held in Cavendish Chapel, on Tuesday evening, April 13th. Mr. F. Wills, minister of the chapel, was unanimously called to the chair, and, after prayer by Mr. U. D. Jameson, opened the meeting by remarking upon the unconstitutional character of the measure, and the urgent need of opposing it. Mr. B. Fannington, of Dumpton-hall school, proposed the first resolution, and, in pursuance of it, condemned, in decisive terms, Government interference in matters of religion and of education. This was seconded by Mr. U. D. Jameson, Independent minister, who commented upon the sentiments lately expressed by Lord Morpeth upon the question. Mr. James Sprigg, of Margate, then rose to move the second resolution, which condemned the measure as tending, at a great expense, and in an unconstitutional manner, to fasten on the people a second ecclesiastical establishment under the direction of the present clergy. This was clearly and forcibly shown by the speaker, who dwelt in strong terms upon the evil tendencies of the measure. Mr. William Allport, of Dumpton-hall, in seconding, gave some amusing illustrations of the kind of inspection and control to which the scheme would reduce the schools subject to its regulations. Mr. E. Davis briefly supported the motion. The adoption of a petition was then moved by Mr. G. M. Hinds, with some appropriate remarks, seconded by Mr. W. Garwood, Baptist minister, and unanimously carried.—On Saturday, the 17th inst., a meeting of the inhabitants of Ramsgate was held in the Town-hall, to petition Parliament in favour of the Government scheme. The chair being taken by the deputy, S. Sackell, Esq., Mr. Whitehead was requested to read the petition and comment upon it; which he did at some length, amid mingled tokens of approbation and disapprobation. Joseph Canham, Esq., M.D., was next called on to state his reasons for signing the petition; after which, leave was asked to move an amendment favourable to the Committee of Inquiry proposed by T. S. Duncombe, Esq. This was refused on the ground that the meeting was not one for discussion, but to get up a petition in favour of the Minutes. A scene of uproar now began which the Chairman, unwilling to allow a free examination of the question, was unable to control; and, after a contention of voices for the mastery, the friends of freedom of speech adjourned to the British School-room, and passed a resolution, and adopted a petition to the House, in favour of Mr. Duncombe's motion for inquiry.

BRISTOL.—The petition in favour of the Government plan has been numerous and respectfully signed, and will be shortly forwarded to Mr. Berkeley, for presentation. A petition from the clergy, churchwardens, and other inhabitants of the parish of St. James, in favour of the measure, is also in course of signature. A public discussion, on the merits or demerits of the plan, is to take place on Monday evening next. A meeting of the clergy of the Bristol deanery was held on Thursday, at Mr. Ridler's, High-street, to take into consideration the Government scheme of education. The Rev. Canon Barrow presided, and the meeting, at which between sixty and seventy clergymen were present, unanimously resolved to petition in favour of the measure.—*Bristol Mercury*.

CHELMSFORD.—A meeting of a very interesting character was held in this town on Monday week, "to take into consideration the scheme of education proposed by her Majesty's government," and it being understood that it was convened by the Dissenters who are opponents of the measure, and that their resolutions would be opposed by a portion of their own body, the proceedings excited much interest in the town. The hall was crowded full up to the doorways and passages, many Churchmen of the town being present, though we believe they took no part, either one way or the other, in the proceedings. Amongst those on the platform were W. C. Wells, John Copland, Edward Copland, and T. King, Esqrs., the Rev. R. Bowman (Independent minister, Chelmsford), the Rev. — Allen (Wesleyan minister, Springfield), and the Rev. J. B. Law (Writtle); Messrs. J. Fenton, H. Copland, W. Johns, and T. Johns. Mr. E. Copland occupied the chair. Mr. J. Copland moved a resolution, lamenting the deficiency of education, and expressing a most earnest desire to see the people of England possessed of an education sound in its principles, elevated in its character, and universal in its extent, which was seconded by Mr. Allen, Wesleyan minister, and carried unanimously. Mr. Bowman then proposed, and supported in an able speech, the following resolution:—

That this meeting is of opinion that it is not the province of Government to interfere in any sense, or to any extent, with the religious instruction of the people, and whatever views may be entertained as to the right or utility of Governmental influence in reference to merely secular or commercial education, which provides or involves an infraction of that sacred and fundamental principle.

That this meeting, therefore, after having carefully considered the measure proposed in the Minutes of Council, and introduced to the notice of Government by the Marquis of Lansdowne, repudiate it in the strongest terms, because it both permits indirectly, and provides for directly, the interference of Government with the religious instruction of a free people.

Mr. Wells seconded the resolution. Mr. Thomas King (a Dissenter), in an elaborate address, moved, as an amendment:—

That this meeting considers the Minutes in Council on the whole worthy of approbation, although it is of opinion that some of the details as to inspection admit of improvement; and also trusts, that any objections that may be made on the ground of due protection to the civil and religious liberties of the community, will receive that consideration from the Government which so important a subject as the education of the people demands.

Mr. H. Copland seconded the amendment. J. B. Law, of Writtle, Independent minister, in an able and telling speech, replied to Mr. King's arguments, and was followed by Mr. J. Copland on the same side, and by

various speakers on the other side. The Chairman then put the amendment, when only a few hands were held up for it, and the original resolution was carried amidst loud cheers. Mr. Hughes proposed a petition to Parliament, founded on the resolutions, which was agreed to. After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting separated.—Abridged from the *Chelmsford Chronicle*.

TAUNTON.—A public meeting was held in Paul's Chapel, on Friday evening last, in opposition to the Government scheme of education; T. Thompson, Esq., in the chair. Messrs. Addiscott, Poole, Jackson, Whelaw, Green, jun. (of London), Taylor, Gammon, Underwood, Robinson, and Pratt, addressed the meeting upon a series of resolutions condemnatory of the scheme. The speeches were very eloquent, and very much applauded; and the meeting was quite unanimous in their opposition. We did hope to have seen more present, and were very sorry to find that there should be any neutrality on this question. We hope it will lead to the formation of an Anti-state-church Association; for that, after all, is the root of the evil. Many Churchmen, and some Dissenters, are very earnest for the measure. Our petitions are proceeding very favourably. There is a counter petition, and our reverend vicar is carrying it about from house to house.—*From a Correspondent*.

DEVONPORT.—"I proceed," says our correspondent, "to redeem my pledge by reporting the result of our Monday's and Tuesday's lectures. On Monday, Mr. W. Spencer (minister), proceeded to show his objections to the Government scheme of education. Sympathizing with the sentiments of the previous lecturer, he further condemned the scheme in a religious point of view." Our correspondent then gives a brief analysis of this and the succeeding lecture, but the large demand upon our space prevents our insertion of it. "On Tuesday evening, Mr. T. Horton (minister), gave the third lecture. He said: 'If I admired the scheme I should abominate the mode! it was introducing a precedent, the consequences of which were incalculable.' He said the scheme was degrading and servile in its tendency, generating 'creeping things' in the shape of sycophants and seekers of place—it would degrade Dissenters by compelling them to pay to the support of a system they disapproved of—it would degrade the working-classes by making them State paupers. The audiences, on both evenings, were of the most crowded but (during the lectures) orderly description. On each evening Mr. Nicholls made his appearance, and gave vent to a host of words to little purpose. Mr. Towson also took part in the discussion, and conducted himself in a very gentlemanly manner. At the close of the lectures it was stated that the public meeting intended for Thursday had been given up, for the purpose of allowing the friends of the Government scheme an opportunity of calling one on their own terms, at which the Committee of Dissenters pledged themselves to be present to meet their arguments—but they declined to call it: and consequently a petition, condemnatory of the scheme, was adopted. About twenty hands were held up against it. The vast assemblage appeared fully convinced of the insidious nature of the scheme.

TREDGAR.—The Welch Methodists have had their petition numerously signed at their monthly meeting held on Wednesday last. Considerable surprise is evinced at the position assumed by Wesleyans. Their quiescence is not likely to create a favourable impression. With this exception the measure is opposed with more or less activity by all denominations in the place. This week meetings will be held in the surrounding districts to wind up affairs. At Sharon Chapel, Tredgar, as an appropriate finale, Mr. Stephens, Sirhowy, will deliver a lecture on "What is meant by the Separation of Church and State?" Upon the whole we think that the Dissenters in Monmouthshire will do their duty, and forward numerous petitions against the scheme.

TOTNES.—A petition against the Ministerial scheme of education is now in course of signature in this town. Similar petitions are in course of signature at Brent, Buckfastleigh, Chardford, Dittisham, Stoke, Gabriel, Morley, Harberton, and various other places.

DEVIZES.—A meeting of persons hostile to the Government measures for promoting "National Education," was held on Monday evening, at the British and Foreign School-room in this town. It was well and respectfully attended; the audience appearing to feel a deep interest in the question, and to be determined to offer the most strenuous opposition to the plan. The resolutions were carried unanimously, as was the adoption of a petition to Parliament not to pass the measure, and of a memorial to the borough members to give the petition their warm support. Mr. R. Biggs was called to the chair. The meeting was addressed by the following—Rev. Messrs. Elliott, Withington, Stanford, and Mowett (Wesleyan); and Messrs. Player, G. A. Anstie, P. Anstie, J. T. Knight, &c. Mr. Withington said:—He knew something of Dr. Shuttleworth, he was a fellow-townsmen of his, for he was a Manchester man. He (Dr. Shuttleworth) had been a teacher in a Dissenting school in Manchester, in the school of Mr. Roby there; and where he could have gathered the idea that Nonconformists of the present generation would sell their consciences for thirty pieces of silver, he (Mr. Withington) knew not [cheers]. He believed that Dr. Shuttleworth would be deceived [hear, hear].—*Wilts Independent*.

SOMEWHAT SIGNIFICANT.—The Editor of the *Monmouthshire Mercur* (a Roman Catholic) has kept profound silence on the education minutes until Saturday last. In his article on the subject, he speaks in a true oracle style, it being almost impossible to divine what side he takes. He proposes to return to the subject on Saturday next, when his counsels, whatever side he takes, will be too late. The probability is, that he has been driven to say something by the rumour that the Premier intends to throw the Roman Catholics overboard for the present, and that something must depend upon the truth of the aforesaid rumour. This, perhaps, may account for the silence of Catholic and Jesuit Editors for so many weeks.

THE FREE CHURCH AND THE GOVERNMENT MEASURE.

EDINBURGH, FRIDAY.—A special meeting of the Free Church Presbytery of Edinburgh was held here to-day, for the purpose of receiving the report of the committee appointed a week ago to consider whether any steps should be taken, and, if any, what steps, in reference to the proposed Government education scheme. The meeting was looked forward to with considerable interest, as the metropolitan presbytery generally gives the key-note to the other presbyteries throughout Scotland.

Dr. CANDLISH read the report of the Committee, to whom the matter was intrusted, the substance of which was, that, although, on the one hand, they approved of the principle, that it was the duty of Government to give public grants of money for the purposes of education, at the same time they deprecated the indiscriminate apportioning of such grants. They were, however, desirous, seeing that the scheme involved a number of important details, upon which they were not prepared to give a decided opinion, to petition Government to delay the measure until the country should have maturely considered the proposed scheme in all its details. In supporting the report, the doctor, as convener of the committee:—

One of the principal reasons why they wished for delay in the matter was, that the question had but recently been proposed to the country, and, therefore, there had been but little time as yet for a mature consideration of the details of the scheme. This, he thought, was the more necessary, as a great number had already, without much reflection, committed themselves to an opinion on the merits of the scheme. With regard to the opinions of Mr. Baines, he believed that very few of the Dissenters in Scotland supported them—that the State should not interfere with the education of the people. Be that, however, as it might, for himself he thought that it was not properly the business of the Church to superintend education; he believed that was more the duty of the civil magistrate. What they had to consider was, what were the merits of the scheme in reference to the interests of the Church, or was it in accordance with the word of God? He thought that the people of Scotland were fully alive to the grand principle of a spiritual education, and therefore he thought that the Free Church was in a position to supply that desideratum. As to whether they could take assistance from this scheme proposed by Government, all he wanted was, that they should have some little time to consider on the propriety of such an application. If they did accept of this boon in Scotland, he was very little afraid that there would be a bad use made of its application; but he was much afraid of England. His jealousies were roused with regard to the application of the grant to the Established Church in that country. Though nominally a Protestant church, he had no confidence either in her principles or practice. To do anything that would extend the power and influence of that Church would be dangerous to the best interests and liberties of the nation. This was a great difficulty in the way, and for such reasons as these, he thought there should be delay; for this purpose he moved the adoption of the report [applause].

Dr. DUNCAN seconded the motion. After a few remarks from Dr. CUNNINGHAM and Mr. BEGG,

Dr. CANDLISH said, that in order to prevent misunderstanding as to the real intention of the Government, he begged to state, that information had been received from the Lord Advocate, who stated—1st, that the measure was to have an equal application to England and Scotland; and 2nd, that it was not intended to form a supplementary support to the present parochial schools.

Mr. GUTHRIE said, although there ought to be time for cool and mature deliberation, he was not prepared to deprecate the Government Scheme, because it was to be indiscriminate in its application; for he was of opinion, that Roman Catholics and Socinians who paid taxes, and had as much interest in the Government and welfare of the country as the Evangelical bodies, were just as much entitled to State support as the others were. He therefore cautioned the General Assembly, that whatever deliverance they might come to in the matter, they would not bind down such as he, but allow them to take whatever course the conscience dictated.

Dr. CANDLISH said, that as the mover of the report, he begged to reply more especially to the remarks of Mr. Guthrie. The doctor warmly condemned the principles advanced by Mr. Guthrie, and with regard to the threat which that gentleman had ventured to make against any conclusion the General Assembly might come to, he (Dr. Candlish) was of opinion that it would have been better for the interests of the Free Church at large if Mr. Guthrie had not made such a statement. He (Dr. Candlish) was persuaded that if such went abroad, it would do a great deal of injury. The report was unanimously approved of.

THE FREE CHURCH SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND Ayr has, on the motion of Dr. Buchanan, resolved, by a majority of sixty to sixteen, upon a hostile petition. This synod is the largest provincial court of the body; and, as Dr. Candlish sat in it as a corresponding member, and voted in the majority, there can be little doubt that this decision will exercise a considerable influence over, or at all events may be predicted as indicating, pretty correctly, the opinions of the ensuing general assembly of the Free Church.

The Free Presbytery of Arbroath have, without a vote, come to a similar resolution.

The Scotsman complains of the ambiguity of Dr. Candlish. "Almost everybody here that knows or cares anything about the matter, knows that the Free Church is on this question divided into two distinct and not very friendly parties—the one headed by Dr. Candlish, fulminating through the Scottish Guardian, and the other represented by our contemporary the Witness. The former party are, so far as can be made out, inimical to the scheme, and favourable to something or another which they do not disclose. Dr. Candlish's speeches, indeed, have for the last week been more ambiguous than before; but it will be seen, that, so far as regards the Ministerial measure, there is no ambiguity about his votes, and in fact his difference from many of his brethren on this point, and his determination to have his own way, are matters of notoriety in every corner of Scotland. As to the other party, they are almost as ingeniously obscured as Dr. Candlish

himself. We can make nothing at all of the speech of Mr. Moncrieff, of Kilbride, who led the opposition to Drs. Candlish and Buchanan in the Glasgow Synod; and the lengthy and numerous articles of the Witness, though giving occasional glimpses of what we regard as sound and rational views on the general question of education, do not enable us to say whether or not our contemporary and his party are in favour of accepting the scheme as it stands, or what it is they would regard as a better."

GLASGOW.—ANOTHER DEFEAT OF THE SUPPORTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT MEASURE.—Glasgow, Thursday.—I have this moment (quarter to six) come from the meeting of which I informed you. We are again triumphant. The notorious Minutes are condemned by five-sixths, at least, of a crowded meeting, called by parties favourable to the Government scheme. Baillie Liddell occupied the chair. Professor Hill (who had to leave shortly) at the outset simply expressed his hearty approval of the object of the requisitionists. Professor W. Thomson afterwards moved, that, as a whole, the scheme should be gratefully received. He made a long speech, and was seconded by Baillie Mitchell. Dr. Taylor then rose, and made the amendment, that the scheme must be rejected at whatever cost. This was seconded by Baillie Anderson. Mr. D'Orsay, amid loud cries of "Vote, vote," rose to address the meeting; and having, through the Chairman, stated that he would only occupy ten minutes, was allowed to proceed. His main object was to show, that, if this scheme were condemned, no other, in the state of parties in this country, would give any more satisfaction to the public generally. I, for one, agree with him. No scheme, such is my opinion, of Government education can be proposed without stirring up a most powerful opposition; and were I, like Dr. Taylor, a State-educationist, I would despair of my country, and would be inclined to accept this measure rather than none. But I have faith in the voluntary principle—say, rather, I have faith in the power of Christian love and benevolence to remedy all the evils of our social condition—a duty which appears to me to lie entirely beyond the province of the civil magistrate. Dr. Taylor's amendment bore that this meeting approves of national education. This, however, in my mind, was only to bring it within "order," such being the terms of the advertisement; and those who voted for it are not at all to be considered as giving an assent to the whole, but only to the "pith" of it; which, as I have said above, was an unqualified condemnation of the present scheme. After Mr. D'Orsay, two other gentlemen rose to speak, but "Vote, vote," "No, no," resounded through the hall, and they were obliged to give way. The vote was then taken, and the result, as I have stated it, was announced by the Chairman amidst vociferous applause. It was then proposed that a petition, based upon the amendment, should be transmitted for presentation to the House of Commons.—From our Correspondent.

MEETING AT FREEMASONS'-HALL IN FAVOUR OF THE MEASURE.

—A meeting of the friends and supporters of the Government scheme of education was held on Wednesday evening, at the Freemasons'-hall, Great Queen-street, for the purpose of pronouncing an opinion and adopting a petition in favour of that measure. The attendance was numerous, the large hall being completely filled, and of a most respectable character. For the most part, unanimity prevailed in the assembly. Lord Ashley took the chair. On the platform and around him were the Bishops of Norwich, St. Asaph, and Adelaide; Dr. Cumming, Mr. G. H. Bowers, Mr. Melville Lee, Mr. Hoare, Mr. J. Payne, &c.

The CHAIRMAN observed that they were there assembled as the friends and supporters of the measure lately submitted to the consideration of Parliament by her Majesty's Government, and to express their hearty concurrence in the Minutes of the Privy Council. He trusted that the manifestation of opinion which would take place in that hall, that evening, would lead them to believe that, after the Minutes were brought into full operation, the population would not be either enslaved by the Government or suffocated by the priesthood [hear, hear]. He then proceeded to defend the Government measure, and denied that it would increase the power of the Church, unless the objectors to the measure refused to do their duty; and concluded by stating that one of the strongest recommendations of the Government "scheme," as it was called, was, that it devoted some attention to the interests of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses, and provided that the honourable and important office of teaching the youth of the country should no longer be had recourse to as a refuge or infirmary for broken and incapacitated energies [hear, hear].

The Bishop of NORWICH proposed the first resolution, to the following effect:—He felt grateful to the Government for what they had done, and his only regret was that they had not attempted more. He was thankful for what was done, for everything was acceptable which was done to accelerate and promote the great object of the people's enlightenment; but he could have wished that a more comprehensive scheme had been adopted, a scheme of education which would have included all of every denomination of those who bowed before the name of Jesus [hear, hear]. He was not without hope that the day would come when a system of education, based upon this principle, would embrace within its influence all the inhabitants of this country; but before that blessed day could arrive there should be less party spirit and more Christian spirit [hear, hear]. A more injudicious and unfair opposition than that which was now offered to the Government scheme of education he had never in his life heard of. He entirely denied the assertion that that scheme would award the lion's share of power and patronage to the Church. If ever there was an honest and purely impartial measure, it was that every Dissenter in the land, from the respectable Presbyterian and Independent, down to the most ignorant and fanatical ranter [laughter], might, if he chose, benefit by it quite as much as a member of the Establishment. It was idle to talk of the voluntary system being interfered with. The fact was, that the Government scheme, so far from tampering with that system,

would tend to strengthen and develop it; but, unaided and left to itself, that system was totally inadequate to the requirements of the country. It had been tested and found inadequate.

Mr. JOHN LABOUCHERE seconded the resolution.

The Bishop of ST. ASAPH, in seconding the next resolution, said, he began life with an idea that the voluntary system could carry out this great work; and twenty years ago, as a parish clergyman in Hampshire, he told Lord Brougham so; but now, after twenty years' experience, his firm conviction was, that both in the rural and manufacturing districts it was utterly inadequate. He compared the voluntary system to free-trade—they were very good when the want was known and felt. Look at it as affecting bodily wants. Dare any man propose to commit the lives of our poorer brethren to the voluntary system? Thank God we had a poor-law—no man could be starved without the breach of an act of Parliament. Was the navy—the safety of our coasts, trusted to the voluntary system? Not because it was wrong, but it was inadequate [cheers].

The meeting was addressed by Mr. H. Hughes, Mr. J. J. Cummins, Mr. R. Burgess, and Dr. Cumming, Mr. E. Auriol, the Bishop of Adelaide, and Mr. J. Payne. Dr. Cumming said, that though not authorized to represent the opinions of the Scottish Church, he believed them to be highly-favourable to the measure. The resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, declared that the provision hitherto made for educating the people is inadequate; that voluntary efforts have signally failed to meet the wants of a rapidly-increasing population, it is the duty of Government to provide instruction for the people; that the rules embodied in the Minutes of Council are alike applicable to Churchmen and Dissenters; that the Government plan is strongly commended to the acceptance of all classes of society; and that voluntary efforts will be assisted and encouraged, instead of being superseded. The proceedings terminated by the adoption of a petition to the House of Commons, praying that every facility may be granted to the Government in carrying the measure into effect.

A meeting in favour of the Government plan of education was held on Wednesday evening at the National School-rooms, Limehouse.

MEETING AT THE LONDON TAVERN.—THE BISHOP OF LONDON'S SPEECH.

A great meeting of the friends of the Government plan of education was held at the London Tavern on Friday. The Lord Mayor presided as chairman. On the platform were the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Llandaff, Archdeacon Le Mesurier, Sheriff Baylis, Alderman Thompson, Sir Fowell Buxton, several influential bankers and merchants of the city, and many clergymen of the metropolis and from the provinces. The Chairman, the Bishops of London and Llandaff, Mr. Jones Lloyd, Dr. Russell, Mr. J. Labouchere, and other influential speakers addressed the meeting; and hearing was given to some opponents, who, however, failed to carry an amendment to the resolutions. These were all duly carried. The Bishop of London's speech seemed to excite most interest. Alluding to the alleged unfairness of the plan, he said:—

The Dissenters say, "We will have nothing to do with it, the Church will get too much." Why, I admit it—I am not so deficient in candour as not to admit that the Church does expect from this scheme very great advantages [cheers, and a voice—"It's out at last!"]. The Church will get more than the Dissenters can hope to get [cries of "Oh! oh!"] But why? Because the Church gives more [loud cheers, mingled with cries of "No, no!"]. The only way in which the Church can get most is by giving most, and by showing the most effective schools [hear, hear, hear]. You cannot get rid of the agency of the Church [loud interruption]—let me finish the sentence—and you cannot get rid of the agency of the Dissenters [great cheering]. The Church asks to educate her own children in her own principles, and does not wish to, and will not, interfere in, the education of the children of the Dissenters [cheers]. Can anything be fairer than this [hear, hear]? I put out of sight one element in the consideration of the subject, which is by no means unimportant—the fact that the Church is an established institution of the country; and that, therefore, her claims are entitled to respectful consideration [hear, hear]. I urge this view simply on the ground of usefulness; I point out to you that, for the last 100 years, the Church has been the instructress of the people; I argue that it deserves the support of the Government, and I think it will have the support of the Government [cheers and hisses]. This is a crisis in the fortunes of England. If the present measure be rejected, and we are not to receive a more comprehensive public support, the Church will not relax in her efforts; but past experience tells us, that the voluntary system, unaided by the resources of a Government, is not competent to a task of such overwhelming magnitude as that of educating a nation [cheers, and cries of "No, no!"]. I do myself feel, that, when the excitement of the moment is over, our Christian brethren, who on this point differ from us, will regret the part they have taken [cries of "Never, never!"]

W. COTTON, Esq., moved that the thanks of this meeting are due to the Lord Bishop of London, for attending and taking part in the proceedings, and also for calling the attention of the Diocesan Board of Education to the importance of co-operating with the scheme of education announced by the Government. The resolution was carried. There was a considerable party hostile to the object of the meeting, and a good deal of confusion towards its close.

SCHOOLMASTERS AND STATE EDUCATION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—I have been much pleased to see the manifestation of so much right-heartedness by the schoolmasters who have written to you on the subject of state education. Vast numbers, I have no doubt, might be found, who would rather suffer pecuniarily than be bribed and drilled by the state. The testimony of all history, as well as the testimony of our own times, goes to prove that the schoolmaster, if dependant upon the state, will be degraded; if he be paid by the state, he will have to do the bidding of the state. Let the present measure of education be acted upon for a few years,

and depend upon it we shall have a fine "orderly peasantry."

At a meeting of the Bradford Schoolmasters' Association, held in the College Chapel School, Bradford, on Saturday last, the Government plan was discussed, and the following resolution passed; ten for, and four against.

"That this meeting regards with the strongest disapprobation and alarm, the measure of her Majesty's ministers, for bringing the education of the people under Government support and direction, contained in the Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education for December, 1846."

If you think this of any use for your excellent journal, you will much oblige by inserting it.

Yours, most respectfully,

JOSEPH JENNINGS,
Schoolmaster.

Halifax, April 12, 1847.

THE MEETING AT EXETER-HALL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—I see in the report of my speech at Exeter-hall, an unlucky error, in connexion with your name. I am made to say, after speaking of my own position as "disinterested," "I cannot say the same of Mr. Miall." You are aware that this is not what I said. You had just before stated that you had "never had any close and intimate sympathy with the Whig party." I, following you, said that "I could not say the same thing as Mr. Miall; namely, that I have always stood aloof from the Whigs: I am a Whig myself."

Do me the favour, if anything of my speech should appear in the *Nonconformist*, to let this error be corrected.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

EDWARD BAINES, Jun.

Hackney, April 17, 1847.

GREENWICH.—A public meeting was held in the Lecture-hall, which was crowded in every part with a highly respectable audience, on Wednesday evening the 14th inst., to oppose the scheme developed in the Minutes of Council, and to adopt a petition to the House of Commons against the same. D. W. Wire, Esq., occupied the chair, and opened the proceedings with a long and able speech, which was listened to with profound attention, and received with frequent bursts of applause. Resolutions, condemnatory of the scheme, and embodying reasons for opposing it, were moved and seconded by the following ministers—viz., Joshua Russell, H. B. Jeula, Robert Ainslie, George Rose, Samuel Green, J. Pulling, and J. Timpson. The meeting was considerably excited and protracted by an interruption caused by Mr. John Wade, who urged stoutly the right and the duty of the State to give a secular education to the people: a short discussion was the result, in which Messrs. Ainslie, Green, and the Chairman took part, and in a good-tempered and masterly manner showed the fallacy of the argument employed by Mr. Wade. A petition, embodying the resolutions was, as were the resolutions themselves, carried unanimously, and after a vote of thanks, moved by Mr. Timpson and seconded by Mr. John Wade, to the Chairman, to which he briefly replied, the meeting broke up after having lasted for nearly four hours.

HENRY VINCENT'S LECTURES.—MALDON, ESSEX.—Mr. Henry Vincent has delivered four lectures in the Cromwell-hall of this town, on Cromwell and the Men and Times of the Commonwealth of England. The audiences were very large and respectable, and evidently felt the deepest interest in the splendid struggles of the Commonwealth age. The principles, motives, and character of Cromwell were clearly illustrated, and were greeted with the greatest enthusiasm.—SOUTHMINSTER, ESSEX.—Mr. Henry Vincent addressed a large meeting of farmers and labourers, in the Independent Chapel of this place, on civil and religious liberty. It is a thoroughly Toryified neighbourhood, but the principles of liberty were cordially greeted.—WISBECH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.—On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Mr. Henry Vincent gave his first three lectures on the Commonwealth, to large audiences, in the Theatre. Mr. Holmes, Independent minister, occupied the chair at the two first meetings; and Mr. Ransome, Wesleyan minister, at the third; great excitement and interest have been created, and Mr. Vincent's reception has been of the most enthusiastic kind. The three remaining lectures will be delivered on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

THE CASE OF MR. FREDERICK DOUGLASS has given rise to a very multifarious set of letters in the papers. Mr. Charles M'Iver, the Liverpool agent of the Cunard steamers, writes to assume the whole responsibility of what was done; and explains that the reason for obliging Mr. Douglass to keep separate was, that he had "created a disturbance" on the voyage to England. Mr. Peter Bolton explains this away, quoting a statement by Mr. Douglass himself. It appears, that on the eastward voyage he came as a steerage passenger, and kept aloof; he was sought by English passengers, and requested by the master of the vessel to make a speech. He began, was coarsely and violently stopped by Americans on board, and desisted. A letter, signed "Charles A. Burrup," of some place in Virginia, "Head Manager of the Cunard Company of Liners," next appeared; very coarsely alluding to the sources of disgust which white people feel for "blackamoors," and declaring that it is shared by the English—in proof of which it is stated, that on one occasion several English persons threw up their berths rather than voyage with a black couple. One "Fair Play" recounts how the agents of the "Great Western" refused to exclude a coloured clergyman from their ship, in 1840; and how his decorous manners eventually won the esteem of all on board. Finally, Mr. Cunard himself appears: he denies that Mr. Burrup has anything to do with the Halifax steamers, characterizes that person's statement as untrue, expresses great regret at the unpleasant occurrence in Mr. Douglass's case, and promises that it shall never occur again.

GLEANINGS.

ADVICE.—If men would but follow the advice which they bestow gratuitously on others, what a reformation would be effected in their characters!

There are at present no fewer than thirty widows who keep inns in Carlisle.

A committee of Irish landlords has been formed in London, for the purpose of furthering a systematic plan of emigration from Ireland.

CHEAP TRAVELLING.—The Eastern Counties Railway Company have started a fourth-class railway train, consisting of open carriages, on which they convey passengers at the rate of a halfpenny per mile. Steam-vessels are now conveying passengers from the Thames to Ipswich for 2s. each.

The *Dublin University Magazine* tells a story how Lord Brougham, once upon a time, when travelling in Switzerland, saved the life of the Rev. Hugh McNeile, who happened to be there too, and very badly off for a doctor.

For the last week, says Mr. F. Robinson, in the *Medical Times*, I have been using as an agent for resuscitating patients after inhaling the vapour of ether, pure oxygen gas, with the most perfect success.

The intended free trade tea party at Manchester has been postponed, on account of the illness of Mr. Milner Gibson.

On the third publication of the banns of a marriage, at Bencley parish church, on Sunday week, a young woman rose, and said, "I forbid the banns." "Why?" asked the clergyman. "Because I want him myself," was the reply; "and I hold in my hand his written promise of marriage to me."

No less than 400 shoemakers are said to have left Dublin during the last month, being out of employment.

Screw steamers have begun to run regularly between Leith, Hamburg, and Rotterdam.

The latest accounts from America show that benevolent exertions in favour of the suffering people of Ireland were still going on in the most active manner.

BIRTHS.

April 13, Mrs. J. E. SAUNDERS, jun., of a son.

April 14, the wife of Mr. CYRUS HUDSON, Independent minister, of Lowestoft, of a son.

April 15, at Park-square, Leeds, the wife of Mr. R. BREWER, minister, of a daughter.

April 16, the wife of Mr. ISAAC DOXEY, minister, Thame, Oxon, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

April 11, at the Independent Chapel, Totnes, by Mr. W. Tarbotton, minister, Mr. P. SHAPTER to Miss ARSCOTT, both of Totnes.

April 11, at the Independent Chapel, Totnes, Mr. H. WINGETT to Miss J. A. L. SPRY, both of Tuckenhay.

April 13, at Ebenezer Chapel, Ramsgate, by Mr. Francis Willis, minister of Cavendish Chapel, Mr. HENRY CHRISTIAN to Miss ELIZABETH CULMER, both of Ramsgate.

April 14, at Broadmead Chapel, Bristol, by Mr. W. Hawkins, A.M., minister, Mr. THOMAS SYMES EYRE, of Launceston, Cornwall, to MATILDA, fourth daughter of the late Mr. Joseph HORSEY, of Portsea.

April 14, at Norley Chapel, Plymouth, by Mr. Eliezer Jones, minister, Mr. D. MURRAY, of London, to Miss E. S. HARRIS, Park-street, Plymouth.

April 15, at the Independent Chapel, St. Martin's-square, Chichester, by Mr. Charles Cakebread, minister, Mr. THOMAS FULLJAMES, of Gosport, to ELEANOR SWEET, eldest daughter of Mr. G. PULLINGER, Chichester.

April 15, at the Congregational Chapel, Great Yarmouth, by Mr. J. S. Russell, M.A., JOHN EBENEZER HOWELL, son of Mr. Charles Howell, of Sidbury, Devonshire, to REBECCA, second daughter of Mr. John BLAKE, draper, of the former place.

DEATHS.

April 13, Mr. JOSIAS WILSON, aged 47, minister of the Presbyterian Church, River-terrace, Islington.

April 14, at her residence, Highbury-place, in the 85th year of her age, ELIZABETH, relict of the late Thomas Wilson, Esq.

April 15, at her residence, 5, Clarendon-place, Vassal-row, Brixton, aged 75, Mrs. WEBB, widow of the late Mr. Caleb Webb.

April 17, of hooping-cough, CHARLES JAMES, infant son of Mr. G. W. FISHBOURNE, of Bow, minister, aged 15 weeks.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Friday, April 16.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

DAVIS, JOHN, Wedmore, Somersetshire, tailor.

BANKRUPTS.

BATTERSBY, ALEXANDER WHITE, Liverpool, joiner, April 27, May 14: solicitors, Messrs. Chester and Co., Staple-inn, London; and Mr. W. R. TYER, Liverpool.

BERRYMAN, GEORGE, Staines, licensed victualler, April 27, June 1: solicitors, Mr. Strouhill, 7, Coleman-street; and Mr. Richings, Staines.

BUTCHER, HENRY, 46, Lamb's Conduit-street, poultryer, April 23, June 1: solicitor, Mr. Oldknow, Chapel-street, Bedford-row.

ELLIS, JOHN, Bristol, ale merchant, April 29, May 27: solicitors, Mr. Bishop, Lincoln's-inn-fields, London; and Mr. A. Henderson, Bristol.

ELSTONE, CHARLES, Guildford, linen draper, May 3, June 7: solicitor, Mr. Jones, Sise-lane, Bucklersbury.

FEATHERSTONE, JOHN, late of Howden, but now of Goole, Yorkshire, butcher, April 27, May 18: solicitors, Messrs. Williamson and Co., Great James-street, Bedford-row, London; Mr. England, Howden; and Messrs. Bond and Batwick, Leeds.

GERISH, FRANCIS WILLIAM, East-road, City-road, iron founder, April 29, June 7: solicitor, Mr. W. S. Adams, 16, George-street, Mansion-house.

HEARD, DAVID, Barking, Essex, smack owner, April 22, May 25: solicitor, Mr. Buchanan, Basinghall-street.

HODGKINS, HENRY, Birmingham, shoemaker, April 27, May 18: solicitor, Mr. T. K. T. Hodgson, Birmingham.

JAMES, SARAH, and HERBERT, THOMAS, Brynmaur, Breconshire, grocers, April 30, June 1: solicitor, Mr. Leman, Bristol.

KNIGHT, HENRY, Reading, brewer, April 23, May 28: solicitors, Mr. Holmes, Great James-street, Bedford-row; and Mr. Clarke, Reading.

SECKEL, MEYER ABRAHAM, and BANERMAN, HILLERY JOHN, 19, Duke-street, Aldgate, watch manufacturers, May 1, June 5: solicitor, Mr. Sydney, Liverpool-street.

STACE, A. ROBERT, Sandgate, Kent, April 23, May 28: solicitor, Mr. Waller, jun., Finsbury-circus.

SWORD, ROBERT, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, draper, April 26, June 3: solicitors, Mr. L. Harle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and Messrs. Chisholme and Co., 64, Lincoln's-inn-fields, London.

SYMES, JOHN DAVID, Axminster, Devonshire, corndealer, April 29, May 19: solicitors, Mr. John Stogdon, Southernhay; and Messrs. Keddell and Co., Lime-street, London.

TEMPERLEY, NICHOLAS, King William-street, City, coal merchant, April 27, May 28: solicitor, Mr. Henderson, Mansell-street, Goodman's-fields.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

FARGUHAN, THOMAS, Glasgow, shawl manufacturer, April 23, May 14.

MACLAINE, MURDOCH, late of Lochbui, April 20, May 11.

MCOMISH, JAMES, late of Crieff, maltster, April 21, May 12.

DIVIDENDS.

Joseph Coles, 233, Strand, tobacconist, first div. of 9d.; at 12, Abchurch-lane, April 17, and two subsequent Saturdays—Thomas Thompson, Brighton, grocer, first div. of 3s.; at 12, Abchurch-lane, April 17, and two subsequent Saturdays—George Bradbury, Bishops-gate-street and Moor-lane, ironmonger, first div. of 14s.; at 12, Abchurch-lane, April 17, and two subsequent Saturdays—Joseph Keed

Bullen, Peterborough, tailor, first div. of 4s. 4d.; at 7, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry, April 17, and two subsequent Saturdays—William L. Collins, Wood-street, Westminster, brewer, first div. of 1s. 2d.; Saturdays—George Whitehead, Fleet-street, and Boyle-street, Burlington-gardens, printer, second div. of 2s., and first and second div. of 3s. 6d.; at 7, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry, April 17, and two subsequent Saturdays—James Challen, Odham, Hampshire, brewer, first div. of 1s.; at 7, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry, April 17, and two subsequent Saturdays—John Botcherby, Darlington, coal owner, first div. of 2s. 6d.; at 111, Pilgrim-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, any Saturday—John Roberts and Hugh Hughes, Deansgate, Lancashire, linen drapers, first div. of 1s. 3d., and of 20s. in the pound on the separate estate of Hugh Hughes; at 73, George-street, Manchester, any Tuesday—George Handel Openshaw, Over Darwen, Lancashire, power-loom cloth manufacturer, first div. of 8s. 9d.; at 73, George-street, Manchester, any Tuesday—Thos. Rogers, Bradford, dentist, first div. of 2s. 3d.; at 7, Commercial-buildings, Leeds, any Tuesday—Joseph Broadbent, New Barn, Yorkshire, woollen manufacturer, first div. of 7d.; at 7, Commercial-buildings, Leeds, any Tuesday—James Brett, Spilaby, Lincolnshire, grocer, first div. of 2s. 6d.; at the Town-hall, Hull, any Wednesday—Daniel Wade Acraman, William Edward Acraman, Alfred John Acraman, William Morgan, Thomas Holroyd, and James Norrway Franklyn, Bristol, ship builders, first div. of 2s. 6d.; at 19, St. Augustine's-place, Bristol, any Wednesday.

Tuesday, April 20.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

BAISLER, FRANCIS, 124, Oxford-street, stationer.

BANKRUPTS.

BAINBRIDGE, WILLIAM, late of Oakley-terrace, Old Kent-road, but now of Corrie-place, and Lombard-street, Chelsea, grocer, May 4, June 1: solicitors, Messrs. Cox, Son, and Walrond, 14, Sise-lane, City.

BENTLEY, ARTHUR, Bury, Lancashire, iron founder, April 30, May 20: solicitors, Messrs. Clarke and Co., 20, Lincoln's-inn-fields, London; and Messrs. T. A. and J. Grundy, Bury.

CHITTLE, JOHN, Warminster, and Chippenham, linen draper, April 27, June 1: solicitor, Mr. A. Jones, Sise-lane, City.

COWDEN, CHARLES, 59, Fore-street, Lambeth, boat builder, April 27, June 1: solicitor, Mr. Ashby, Shore-ditch.

M'DONNELL, MICHAEL, Liverpool, ship broker, April 13, May 25: solicitors, Messrs. Bridger and Co., London-wall; and Mr. Dodge, Liverpool.

HERBERT, THOMAS, Bridgwater, grocer, May 4 and 26: solicitors, Mr. A. Copp, Bridgwater; Mr. W. A. Boyle, 17, Clement's-inn, London; and Mr. J. H. Terrell, Exeter.

TOONE, EDWARD, Twickenham, tea dealer, April 27, June 1: solicitors, Messrs. Donne and Taylor, New Broad-street.

THOMAS, HERBERT, Carmarthen, linen draper, April 27, June 1: solicitors, Messrs. Hardwick and Davidson, Weavers'-hall, Basinghall-street.

WIGHTMAN, ROBERT, Colchester, draper, April 30, June 19: solicitor, Mr. Cattlin, Ely-place, Holborn.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

BLACKWOOD, WILLIAM, Glasgow, bookseller, April 28, May 19.

CARMICHAEL, MALCOLM, Glasgow, asphaltic manufacturer, April 26, May 17.

MAGREOR, FRANCIS, of Inverness, cabinet maker, April 28, May 19.

KOBB, JAMES, Aberdeen, china merchant, April 27, May 18.

SMITH, DAVID, Cupar-Fife, builder, April 24, May 18.

TAYLOR, JOHN, jun., Dalry, merchant, April 26, May 17.

DIVIDENDS.

Robert Oxtoby and William Christopher Oxtoby, Great Driffield, Scarborough, Bridlington, and Beverley, millers; first div. of 4s.; and first div. of 4s. 11d. on the separate estate of Robert Oxtoby; and first div. of 1s. 3d. on the separate estate of William Christopher Oxtoby; at the Town-hall, Hull, on April 21, or any subsequent Wednesday—Molyneux, Witherby, and Co., Liverpool, merchants, third div. of 4s. 6d., and div. of 20s. on the separate estate of Thomas Blayds Molyneux; at 12, Cook-street, Liverpool, on April 28, or any subsequent Wednesday—Alexander Henderson, 19, Old Burlington-street, tailor, first div. of 2s.; at 12, Birch-lane, City, on April 26, and following Monday—David Pattie, St. Alban's-place, Edgeware-road, stationer, first div. of 2s. 3d.; at 12, Birch-lane, City, on April 26, and following Monday—Roderick Mackenzie, Hunter-street, Brunswick-square, and of Bond-court, commission agent, second div. of 9d.; at 12, Birch-lane, City, on April 26, and following Monday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 percent. Consols ..	86½	86½	86½	86½	87½	87½
Otto for Account....	86½	87	86½	84	86½	87
3 percent Reduced....	85½	85½	86½	85	86½	86
New 3½ percent.....	87½	87½	88	87½	87½	88½
Long Annuities	9	9	9	9	9	9
Bank Stock.....	196	193½	193	194	—	193
India Stock.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills	par	3 dis	2 p	1 p	par	3pm
India Bonds	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Belgian	98	Mexican	21½
Brazilian	86	Peruvian	39½
Buenos Ayres	43½	Portuguese 5 per cents ..	81
Columbian	16	Ditto converted	33
Danish	86½	Russian	112
Dutch 2½ per cents	56½	Spanish Active	23½
Otto 4 per cents	90	Ditto Passive	4
French 3 per cents	77½	Ditto Deferred	17½

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham & Gloucester ..	123	London & Croydon Trunk ..	21½
Blackwall	74	London and Greenwich ..	8½
Bristol and Exeter	74½	Manchester and Leeds ..	102
Eastern Counties	194	Midland Counties	116
Eastern Union	52	Ditto New Shares	39
Edinburgh and Glasgow ..	72	Manchester and Birming ..	—
Great North of England ..	233	Midland and Derby	—
Great Western	115	Norfolk	131
Ditto Half	69½	North British	32
Ditto Fifths	28½	South Eastern and Dover ..	36½
London & North-Western ..	174	South Western	64
Ditto Quarter Shares	22	York and Newcastle	34
London and Brighton	52½	York and North Midland ..	82

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, April 19.

During last week the weather was very cold and unseasonable, which has much retarded vegetation; but with this exception the Wheat plant is generally represented as looking well. This morning's market was fairly supplied with English Wheat, which met a brisk demand both for French account and from our own millers, at an advance of 6s. per qr. from the prices of this day a fortnight. There is not much foreign Wheat now on sale, but all qualities may be quoted 4s. per qr. dearer, and with a good sale. Flour has met with a good deal of attention. Western Canal is worth 42s. per brl., and Canas, 40s. Barley, Beans, and Peas are each dearer; the former 2s., and the latter 1s. per qr. Although well supplied with oats, the trade has been brisk, and in most instances an advance of 1s. per qr. has been paid.

Wheat, Red	70 to 83	Peas, Hog	53 to 56
New	82 .. 85	Maple	51 .. 59
White	82 .. 87	Boilers	55 .. 61
New	85 .. 89	Beans, Ticks	45 .. 48
Flour, per sack (Town) ..	60 .. 65	Pigeon	51 .. 55
Barley	43 .. 45	Harrow	48 .. 49
Malt	54 .. 56	Oats, Feed	30 .. 34
Malt, Ordinary	69 .. 71	Fine	31 .. 37
Pale	75 .. 77	Poland	— .. —
Oats	51 .. 58	Potato	38 .. 41

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR

APRIL 16.		AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.	
Wheat	74s. 5d.	Wheat	75s. 6d.
Barley	49 8	Barley	52 0
Oats	32 7	Oats	31 9
Rye	54 10	Rye	56 0
Beans	50 10	Beans	51 11
Peas	56 0	Peas	56 47

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, April 19.

Notwithstanding the attendance of both town and country buyers was numerous, the Beef trade was in a very sluggish state, and the few inferior animals on offer sold at an abatement of 2d. per 8lbs., but the value of the prime Scots, Devons, Herefords, and short-horns was mostly supported. The very highest figure for the former breed did not exceed 4s. 2d. per 8lbs., and at which a clearance was not effected. With Sheep we were fairly supplied; while the quality of all breeds was excellent. On the whole the Mutton trade was steady, but by no means brisk, at prices about equal to those paid last week. At the conclusion of business a fair clearance had been effected. From the Isle of Wight, the arrival of Lambs was very small; but, from other quarters, a full average number of that description of stock came to hand. The Lamb trade was tolerably firm, at late rates. Although the supply of Calves was small, the Veal trade ruled heavy, at Friday's depressed rates. The Pork trade was heavy; yet prices were mostly supported.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef	2s. 10d. to 4s. 2d.	Veal	4s. 0d. to 5s. 0d.
Mutton	3 6 .. 5 4	Pork	3 8 .. 5 0
Lambs	5s. 4d. .. 6s. 4d.		

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Beasts	1,052	Sheep	5,430	Calves	211	Pigs	310
Monday	3,843	21,500	103	512

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, April 19.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

Inferior Beef 2s. 10d. to 3s. 0d.	Inf. Mutton 3s. 8d. to 3s. 10d.
Middling do 3 0 .. 3 2	Mid. ditto 4 0 .. 4 2
Prime large 3 4 .. 3 6	Prime ditto 4 4 .. 4 6
Prime small 3 6 .. 3 8	Veal 4 0 .. 5 0
Large Pork 3 8 .. 4 0	Small Pork 4 8 .. 5 0

SEEDS, LONDON, Monday.—The demand for Clover-seed has improved of late, and several speculative purchases were made to-day of both white and red at rates not previously obtainable. Canary-seed was in fair supply, and was again easier to buy. In quotations of other articles no change occurred.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday.—The dealings in Irish Butter on the spot were limited; for Manchester, Liverpool, and Scotland there was an increased demand, and our stocks in consequence reduced to a narrow compass. Prices as last quoted well supported, and in some few instances sales were effected at rather higher rates. For foreign there was a free and liberal demand, at an advance on all kinds of fully 2s. per cwt. There is a steady demand for English Butter.—Bacon: Singed sides were held with more firmness, and for more money. The demand, however, was slow, and the sales comparatively unimportant, at prices varying from 70s. to 76s., according to size and quality. In bale and tierce Middles, Hams, and Lard, no change worth notice occurred in demand or value. There has been a somewhat improved demand during the past week in English Cheese of all kinds, and we anticipate a continuance of this improved state.

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 9d. to 10d.; of household ditto, 8d. to 9d. per 4lbs. loaf.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, April 19.—The inquiry for fine samples continues moderate, and the market steady, at about the currency of this day week.

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The market is steady, and if the money pressure does not interfere, there may be some revival of our manufacturing trade upon the strength of the orders received from America. The imports of wool since this day week have been exceedingly limited; viz., 131 bales, of which 70 were from Germany, and 61 from Egypt. Leeds, April 16.—We have no variation to report in the foreign wool trade from our last. The demand for combing and clothing wool this week has not varied; it continues languid, and prices without any material alteration. Down combing wools are not plentiful, and go off more freely than the deeper grown kinds.

COTTON, LIVERPOOL, April 17.—We have experienced a more quiet demand for Cotton to-day. The tightness of the money market seems to have affected prices. The sales are from 3,000 to 4,000 bales, including 3,000 American, Pernam, and Bahia, 50 Egyptian, 77d. to 8d., and 300 Surat, 4d. to 5d. The market closed with some tameness, and prices rather on the decline.

TALLOW, LONDON, April 19.—Although the stocks of Tallow continue small, the demand, both on the spot and for forward delivery, is heavy at the late decline in the quotations. Town Tallow is in good supply, and somewhat lower.

GROCERIES, LONDON, Tuesday, April 20.

COFFEE.—1,500 bags Costa Rica, in auction, sold at lower rates, fine ordinary pale, 45s.; fine ordinary, 37s. 6d. to 40s. 6d.; good ordinary, 34s. 6d. to 35s. 6d.; ordinary, 33s. per cwt. 300 bags Plantation Ceylon sold at lower rates; middling colour, 75s.; low middling, 65s. to 67s.; fine to fine ordinary greyish, 61s. to 64s.; fine ordinary, 52s. to 56s.; pea berry, 74s. 6d. to 78s. 6d. per cwt. Fine ordinary pale native was offered at 42s.; good ordinary, at 40s. per cwt.

SUGAR.—The trade bought 230 hhds. and tierces in the B.P. market at a reduction of 6d. per cwt. The refined market is equally dull, standard lumps selling at 63s. to 68s. 6d., and brown grocery at 62s. to 63s. 6d. per cwt. Of 8,000 bags Mauritius offered in auction, only a small proportion found buyers at a decline of 6d. to 1s. per cwt; fine yellow fetched 48s. 6d. to 50s. 6d.; good to good middling, 46s. to 48s.; low to middling, 44s. to 46s.; good to fine brown, 43s. 6d. to 45s. 6d.; low to middling grey, 44s. to 46s.; good to fine grey, 46s. 6d. to 48s. per cwt.

RUMS.—Leeward proof are selling slowly at 3s. to 3s. 1d.; Calcutta at 2s. 9d. to 2s. 11d. per gallon.

HIDES, LEADENHALL.—Market hides, 64lb. to 72lb., 3d. to 3½d. per lb.; ditto, 72lb. to 80lb., 3½d. to 3¾d.; ditto, 80lb. to 88lb., 3¾d. to 4d.; ditto, 88lb. to 96lb., 4d. to 5d.; ditto, 96lb. to 104lb., 5d. to 6d.; Calf-skins, each, 4s. 6d. to 6s. 9d.; Horse hides, 13s.; Lambs, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 10d.; Shearlings, 1s. 6d. to 2s.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, April 19.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Meadow 52s. to 78s. | Clover Hay | 75s. to 98s. || Oat Straw | 32s. .. 35s. | | |

COAL EXCHANGE, April 19.

Stewart's, 18s. 9d.; Hetton's, 18s. 9d.; Braddill's Hetton's, 18s. 6d.; Lambton's, 18s. 6d.; West Hartley's, 17s. 3d. Ships arrived this week, 34s.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MUDIE'S SELECT LIBRARY,

28, Upper King-street, Bloomsbury-square.
This Library comprises the best and newest works in every department of Literature, with all the Quarterly and Monthly Periodicals.
Single Subscription.
Seven Shillings per Quarter, One Guinea per Annum.
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Two, Three, Five, or Ten Guineas per Annum, according to the number of volumes required.
Newspapers regularly supplied.—Stationery of every Description

STOOPING of the SHOULDERS and CONTRACTION of the CHEST are entirely prevented, and gently and effectually removed in Youth, and Ladies and Gentlemen, by the occasional use of the IMPROVED ELASTIC CHEST EXPANDER, which is light, simple, easily applied either above or beneath the dress, and worn without any uncomfortable constraint, or impediment to exercise. Sent per post, by Mr. ALFRED BINYON, Sole Manufacturer and Proprietor, 40 Tavistock-street, Covent-garden, London; or full particulars, with Prices and Mode of Measurement, on receipt of a postage-stamp.

APSEY PELLATT and Co. (late Pellatt and Green) respectfully inform the public that, at their manufactory, Holland-street, Blackfriars, they retail GLASS, China, and Earthenware, Chandeliers, Lustres, and every variety of English and Foreign Ornamental Vases, Tazas, &c. Their showrooms are equal to any in London, and their stock of the most superior and approved description. Foreign orders and outfits executed with despatch. N.B. No establishment in the City. Western Branch 66, Baker-street, Portman-square.

CHRISTIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

Enrolled pursuant to Act of Parliament.

Rev. John Campbell, D.D.
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This Society assures to Ministers, Members of Churches, and others upon Tables computed from the results of 4,000 Societies, and conferring double the advantages usually offered, Relief in Sickness, Annuities commencing at 60, 65, or 70, Sums at Death, and Endowments for Adults and Children. Females are admissible.

The Society's operations are extending by means of Local Branches in several important towns in the Kingdom.

Assurances may be effected daily. The general Medical Officer may be consulted at three o'clock, at the office, daily. Prospectuses, Rules, Tables, and Proposals, may be had at the office, or, for twelve stamps, will be sent through the post.

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29, Bridge-street, Blackfriars.

BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

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Empowered by Special Act of Parliament, 4th Vict., cap. ix.

ADVANTAGES OF THIS INSTITUTION.

MUTUAL ASSURANCE BRANCH.
Complete Security afforded to the Assured by means of an ample subscribed capital, and the large fund accumulated from the premiums on upwards of 6,000 Policies.

Half the amount only of the annual premium required during the first five years, the remaining half premiums being paid out of the profits, which, after five years, will be annually divided among the Assured.

PROPRIETARY BRANCH.

The lowest rates consistent with security to the Assured.
An increasing scale of premiums, peculiarly adapted to cases where assurances are effected for the purpose of securing Loans or Debts.

Half-credit rates of Premium, whereby credit is given for half the amount of premium for seven years, to be then paid off, or remain a charge upon the Policy, at the option of the holder.

EXTRACTS FROM THE TABLES.

Annual Premiums required for an Assurance of £100 for the whole Term of Life.

MUTUAL ASSURANCE BRANCH.				PROPRIETARY BRANCH.			
Age.	Half Premium first five years.	Whole Premium after five years.		Age.	Half Premium first seven years.	Whole Premium after seven years.	
20	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		30	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
25	1 0 0	2 0 0		35	0 18 0	1 16 0	
30	1 2 2	2 4 0		40	0 19 7	1 19 2	
35	1 4 11	2 9 10		45	1 1 9	2 3 6	
40	1 8 6	2 17 0		50	1 4 11	2 9 10	
45	1 13 3	3 6 6		55	1 9 2	2 18 4	
50	1 19 6	3 19 0			1 14 10	3 9 8	
55	2 7 9	4 15 6			2 2 6	4 5 0	
	2 18 10	5 17 8			2 12 9	5 5 6	

PETER MORISON, Resident Director.

RICHARD COBDEN.—Beautiful STATUETTES,

affording a Perfect Likeness of this Hampden of Commercial Freedom, are now on Sale at DEANE'S, of King William-street. They have been cast in Iron, at the celebrated Coalbrookdale Works, in Shropshire. The Price is £3 10s. each.

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SEND EIGHT POSTAGE STAMPS and by return,

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STEPHENS' CONCENTRATED AND SOLUBLE INK POWDERS.

THE Proprietor of these Articles having long considered that it would be greatly to the convenience of the Public to be furnished with the chief elementary parts of Ink in a dry state, yet so readily soluble in water as to be fit for immediate use, has long turned his attention to the subject. He has not been contented to produce a Powder containing the crude ingredients of Ink, such as has hitherto been known, but he has aimed at producing one which, by the addition of water only, shall instantly and at once form an Ink fit for immediate use, and which shall be equal in quality to the best Liquid Ink. The following Preparations will be found to answer fully the above purposes: they consist of—

First—A Soluble Powder for making BLACK INK of the best description and quality, excellent in colour, and very fluid.

Second—A Soluble Powder for making the BLUE-BLACK WRITING FLUID, originally produced by the Proprietor of these articles, and which has been so extensively used, and so justly appreciated.

Third—A Soluble Blue Powder, which makes the UNCHANGEABLE BLUE INK, and, which the Proprietor has the exclusive right to manufacture by patent.

These Powders are put up in three different sized packages: the smallest size may be obtained singly, or in packets containing half a dozen. They, as well as the next size, are so shaped (triangular) that, by cutting off an angle, the contents may be emptied as from a funnel into any glass vessel or inkholder, to be mixed with the requisite quantity of water, to make ink for immediate use.

The largest size packages, No. 3, are sufficient to make a Quart. It has been thought that there is no necessity to make larger Packages, as any quantity of Ink can be made from these by taking the requisite number of Packages for the number of Quarts or Gallons.

The convenience of the smaller Package is, that a Packet containing half a dozen may be kept in a Writing Desk, by which the Inkholder may be supplied, by emptying into it one of the Powders, and adding about an ounce or two table-spoonfuls of water as often as required. The convenience of these small Packages while travelling is very manifest, as it saves carrying about more Liquid Ink than is required for present use.

The next size Package, No. 2, contains sufficient to make Half-a-pint of Ink at once; and as half-a-pint of Ink, with the bottle, will weigh at least sixty times the weight of the Powder necessary to make that quantity, its convenience, even for carrying in the pocket, is something; and when it is considered, that to put it into a bottle, and pour water to it, is not more trouble than to draw a cork from a bottle, its advantage on many occasions is very apparent.

The Black Ink is sold in Packages at 1d., 6d., and 1s. 6d. each. The smallest size is usually put up in Packages containing six in each, at 6d. per Packet.

The Blue-Black, and the Unchangeable Blue, in Packages at 1½d., 9d., and 2s. each.

A Liberal Discount to the Trade and to Shippers.

Prepared and sold by HENRY STEPHENS, Inventor and Proprietor of the Writing Fluids, 54, Stamford-street, Blackfriars-road, London; and by all Booksellers and Stationers throughout the Kingdom.

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LARGEST ASSORTMENT of STOVES, KITCHEN-RANGE, and FENDERS, as well as General Ironmongery, in the world, is now on Sale at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S (late RIPPON and BURTON'S) extensive warehouses. Bright steel fenders to 4 feet, from 30s. each; ditto, ditto, with or-molu ornaments, from 60s.; rich bronzed scroll ditto, with steel bar, 10s. 6d.; iron fenders, 3 feet, 4s. 6d.; 4 feet, 6s.; ditto, bronzed, and fitted with standards, 3 feet, 9s.; 4 feet, 11s.; wrought iron kitchen fenders, 3 feet, 4s. 6d.; 4 feet, 6s.; bright register stoves, with bronzed ornaments, and two sets of bars, from 95s.; ditto, ditto, with or-molu ornaments, from £9; black dining-room register stoves, 2 feet, 18s.; 3 feet, 27s.; bed-room register stoves, 2 feet, 16s., 3 feet, 24s. The new economical thermio stove, with fender and radiating hearth-plate, from £8; fire-irons for chambers 1s 9d. per set; handsome ditto, with cut heads, 6s. 6d.; newest pattern, with elegant bronzed heads, 11s. A variety of fire-irons, with or-molu and richly cut heads, at proportionate prices. Any article in the furnishing ironmongery 30 per cent. under any other house. The money returned for every article not approved of. Detailed catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free.

WILLIAM S. BURTON'S (late RIPPON and BURTON'S) stock and general furnishing ironmongery is literally the largest in the world, and as no language can be employed to give a correct idea of its variety and extent, purchasers are invited to call and inspect it.—39, Oxford-street (corner of Newman-street). Established in Wells-street, 1820.

VICKERS' GINGER BRANDY. Experience

teaches us that the beneficent productions of the earth are themselves sufficient for man's earthly good; especially when rightly directed, and adopted in accordance with the exercise of reason.

Ginger, the almost spontaneous growth of a sunny clime, offers, in his own land, its invigorating aid, to recruit the exhausted energies of the enervated Indian; and in other quarters of the globe nature kindly provides the luscious and grateful orange, as the weedy renovator.

After the most acute medical research, professors are compelled to admit, that nature herself presents the most delightful and efficient remedies, in the temperate use of the Saville range and Jamaica ginger. By the means of commerce we are enabled to obtain these good things; and by a skilful and judicious operation, we are enabled to offer to the world a combination of these excellent remedial qualities, eminently useful in spasms, flatulence, and sensations of cold. And, indeed, for whatever purpose stimulants are required, there are none more wholesome—none more pure—none more efficacious, than VICKERS' GINGER BRANDY.

THE ORANGE GINGERETTE

is an article less highly concentrated, and so compounded as to be acceptable to the Ladies, and those to whom a stronger Liqueur is not necessary.

THE CURACAO PUNCH

stands pre-eminent for delicacy of flavour and superiority of quality; and may be used either as a Liqueur, or in combination with warm or cold water.

THE IMPERIAL LIQUEUR GENEVA

has long stood the test of public approval: it is the subject of much careful attention in its distillation; and nothing finer can be produced by the British distiller.

The above are all Bottled, Sealed, and Labelled at the Distillery of JOSEPH and JOHN VICKERS and Co., LONDON; and may be obtained, as well as their far-famed Orange Boven, Curacao, Cherry Brandy, Gold Wasser, and Crème de Noyeau, of all the Spirit Merchants in the kingdom.

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ROWLANDS' UNIQUE PREPARATIONS.—

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ROWLANDS' MACASSAR OIL

Is celebrated throughout the world for its genial and nourishing qualities for the Human Hair! It produces and restores hair; stops it from falling off or turning grey; restores Grey Hair to its original colour; frees it from scurf and dandruff, and renders it soft, silky, curly, and glossy. For children, it is especially recommended as forming the basis of a Beautiful Head of Hair! and rendering the use of the fine-comb unnecessary. Price 3s. 6d., 7s. Family bottles (equal to four small), 10s. 6d., and double that size, 21s. per bottle.

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* * All others are "SPURIOUS IMITATIONS."

ROWLANDS' KALYDOR.

This Oriental Balsamic Preparation is of unfailing efficacy in thoroughly purifying the skin from all pimples, spots, blotches, freckles, tan, and discolorations, producing a healthy freshness and transparency of complexion; and an admired softness and delicacy of the hands, arms, and neck.—Price 4s. 6d. and 8s. 6d. per bottle.

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DENTIFRICE;

A White Powder for the Teeth, compounded of the choicest and most recherche ingredients of the Oriental herbal. It eradicates tartar from the Teeth, removes spots of incipient decay, polishes and preserves the enamel—imparts the most pure and pearl-like whiteness; and gives sweetness and perfume to the breath. Price 2s. 9d. per box.

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This is a preparation from the choicest Oriental Herbs, of peculiarly mild and detensive properties. It pleasantly and effectually cleanses the hair and skin of the head from scurf and every species of impurity, and imparts a delicate fragrance. It is particularly recommended to be used after bathing, as it will prevent the probability of catching cold in the head, and will render the hair dry in a few minutes. It entirely supersedes the necessity for using the fine comb, so injurious to the tender skin of the head; and, from its beneficial effects on the health, together with the grateful and refreshing sensation it imparts, and being perfectly innocent in its nature, will prove an invaluable appendage to the toilet, and the purposes of the nursery.—3s. 6d. per bottle.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.—Unprincipled Individuals, for the sake of gaining a trifling profit, vend the most spurious compounds, under the names of "Macassar Oil," "Kalydor," and "Odonto;" some under the implied sanction of royalty, and the government departments, with similar attempts at deception. They copy the labels, advertisements, and testimonials (substituting fictitious names and addresses for the real) of the original preparations. It is therefore highly necessary to see that the word "ROWLANDS'" is on the wrapper of each article.

* * All others are FRAUDULENT IMITATIONS!

The Genuine articles are sold by every respectable Perfumer and Chemist throughout the kingdom.

WHITTINGTON CLUB.

THE SECOND SOIREE will take place at the CROWN and ANCHOR TAVERN, STRAND, on WEDNESDAY, the 12th of May. The Chair will be taken by DOUGLAS JERROLD, Esq. (President), at Seven o'clock. During the evening a selection of vocal music by a distinguished party of performers, under the direction of Mr. CARTE. Dancing, for which Weippert's Band is engaged, will commence at Ten o'clock; to conclude punctually at One o'clock. Members who have entered their names for tickets must apply immediately, as the demand will prevent their being reserved. The ANNUAL MEETING will be held at the same place, on MONDAY, the 3rd of May, at Seven o'clock. Members are entitled to admission on the production of the receipt for their Subscription. Ballot lists for the election of the Council for the ensuing year will be ready for delivery at the Office, on Monday, the 26th instant. G. W. YAPP, Secretary. Offices, 68, Cheapside.

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A MOST STRIKING LIKENESS of Mr. EDWARD MIALI, Editor of the *Nonconformist*, is now ready.

Proofs on Fine India Paper..... 7s. 6d.
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T. G. Williams, Esq., Hackney-road.

The first Monthly Meeting to receive Subscriptions and enrol Shareholders, will be held on Wednesday, April the 28th, at Eight o'clock p.m., at the Guildhall Coffee-house, Gresham-street, when £1,000 will be allotted for.

Prospectus, Rules, and Shares, may be taken daily from Eleven till Four, at the Offices, 1, Victoria-treet, Holborn-bridge. B. H. STROUSBERG.

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To Assure £100 at death, with profits.

Ages	15	20	25	30	35	40
Males	£1 13 4	£1 17 6	£2 2 4	£2 8 3	£2 15 4	£3 4 2
Females	£1 12 9	£1 16 6	£2 0 11	£2 6 1	£2 12 6	£3 0 6

To secure a child an endowment of £100, on attaining the age of 21, or an annuity commencing at 21: for males, £5 6s. 4d.; for females, £5 5s. 5d.; to continue as long as they shall live.

Ages	1	3	5	7
Males	£3 1 5	£3 13 0	£4 5 3	£5 4 10
Females	£3 1 4	£3 12 10	£4 7 10	£5 4 8

To secure a Deferred Annuity of £10, to commence from 60, with the option of receiving a cash payment instead: for males, of £93; for females, of £97 8s.

Ages	20	25	30	35	40	45
Males	£0 13 5	£0 18 4	£1 4 8	£1 11 9	£2 11 2	£4 7 9
Females	£0 14 7	£0 19 9	£1 6 8	£1 17 7	£2 14 11	£4 10 10

To secure a Widow an Annuity of £50, commencing at death of Husband, and continuing as long as she lives.

Husband's age	30	40	50	60
Wife same age	£12 1 9	£13 10 7	£15 13 3	£20 7 11
Wife ten years younger	£14 17 11	£17 13 11	£22 3 3	£30 16 1
Wife twenty years younger	£31 12 0	£38 7 4	£41 12 11	

N.B.—Applications from parties desirous of becoming agents in places where appointments have not yet been made, may be addressed to Mr. W. S. Gover, Secretary, 37, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, London, from whom also all other information respecting the Company may be obtained. All communications to be postage paid.

W. S. GOVER, Secretary.

FANCY FAIR, for the benefit of the ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, HAVERSTOCK-HILL, HAMPSHIRE, on the 8th, 10th, and two following days in May, under the immediate patronage of

Her Majesty the Queen.
Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.
Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge.
Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester.
Her Grace the Duchess of Sutherland.
Her Grace the Duchess of Marlborough.
The Right Hon. the Countess of March.
The Right Hon. the Countess of Tankerville.
The Right Hon. the Countess of Sheffield.
The Right Hon. the Countess of Hardwicke.
The Right Hon. the Countess of Clarendon.
The Right Hon. the Countess of Wilton.
The Right Hon. the Countess of Antrim.
The Right Hon. the Countess of Effingham.
The Right Hon. the Countess of Gainsborough.
The Right Hon. the Countess of Duncie.
The Right Hon. Viscountess Jocelyn.
The Right Hon. Viscountess Sydney.
The Right Hon. Viscountess Combermere.
The Right Hon. the Lady Feversham.
The Right Hon. Lady Ashley.
The Hon. Mrs. Leicester Stanhope.
The Hon. Miss Harley.
Lady Culling Eardley Smith, &c. &c. &c.

This institution is open to children from all parts of the kingdom, and of every religious denomination, between the ages of seven and eleven years. They remain until they are fourteen, when they are placed out as servants or apprentices. The charity was instituted in 1758, for twenty boys alone; it has now 139 children of both sexes, who are educated, clothed, and wholly maintained. The appeal for funds, and the proceeds of the sale, will go towards the expense of the building now erecting, where 240 children will be provided for.

Contributions of Useful and Ornamental Work, Clothing for the Poor, Paintings, Drawings, Music, Prints, Books, Autographs, Minerals, Shells, Flowers, Fruits, Botanical Specimens, or any other light articles of manufactured goods, with pecuniary aid, forwarded to Mr. Joseph Soul, the Secretary, 19, Gresham-street, before the 1st of May, 1847, will be gratefully acknowledged.

MANUFACTURERS are invited to send any new and novel articles of British Manufacture for exhibition, as such opportunities for display rarely occur. Their contributions to the bazaar will be thankfully received.

Tickets may be had of the principal London Book and Music Sellers—One Shilling each—and at the Office of the Institution, 19, Gresham-street.

The new Volume, entitled, "Orphanhood," will be published and sold at the Bazaar.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, HAVERSTOCK-HILL.

(Removing from City-road.)

THE HALF-YEARLY GENERAL COURT

and ELECTION OF CHILDREN, will be held at the HALL OF COMMERCE, THREADNEEDLE-STREET, on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28th, 1847, when TWENTY-FIVE CHILDREN will be elected. The Chair will be taken at Eleven o'clock, and the Poll close at Three precisely. New Subscribers have the right to vote immediately. Votes of the Candidates who did not succeed at one Election are carried forwards. A Subscriber of 10s. 6d. annually, or a donor of £5 5s., has one vote, and in the same proportion for any larger sum contributed.

JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary.

Office, 19, Gresham-street.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, CITY ROAD.

SECOND APPLICATION.

THE favour of your Votes and Interest is very earnestly requested at the Election, on Wednesday, the 28th inst., in favour of

HENRY COCKSHAW,

Aged Seven Years, whose father, a printer, (formerly of Leicester,) died December 27th, 1842, leaving a widow and four children entirely dependent on friends.

The case is strongly recommended to the favourable notice of the Governors and Subscribers by

The Rev. Caleb Morris, Fetter-lane.
The Rev. F. A. Cox, D.D., LL.D., Hackney.
The Rev. J. P. Mursell, Leicester.
The Rev. George Wilkins, New Broad-street.
Dr. T. Price, London.
The Rev. S. Birch, Finchley.
The Rev. J. Burnet, Camberwell.
W. Cripps, Esq., Mayor of Nottingham.
Mr. Alderman Cripps, Leicester.
The Rev. G. Clayton, Walworth.
J. Crane, Esq., Finchley.
F. Brewin, Esq., Denmark-hill.
Robert Bousfield, Esq., Newington-place.
Edward Miall, Esq., Holloway.
Mr. Murphy, 116, Holborn-hill.

Proxies will be thankfully received by Mr. MURPHY, 116, Holborn-hill, and by A. COCKSHAW, 12, Warwick-square.

THE NEW ASYLUM FOR INFANT ORPHANS, STAMFORD HILL, for Orphans under eight years of age, without distinction of sex, place, or religious connection.

The THIRD ANNUAL DINNER of this Charity will be held at the LONDON TAVERN, Bishopsgate-street, on THURSDAY, May 6.

The RIGHT HON. LORD ROBERT GROSVENOR, M.P., in the Chair.

STEWARDS.

The Most Noble the Marquis of Allesbury.
The Right Hon. the Earl of Cowper.
The Hon. F. H. Berkeley, M.P.
The Right Hon. Lord Dudley C. Stuart.
The Right Hon. Fox Maule, M.P.
Sir George Stephen, Knt.
Sir Charles Forbes, Bart.
Charles Hindley, Esq., M.P.
Thomas Challis, Esq., Sheriff and Alderman.

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Robert H. H. Wilson, Esq.
John White, Esq.
William H. Watson, Esq.
William H. Warton, Esq.
S. Maling Westall, Esq.

Tickets, one guinea each, may be had of the Stewards; at the Offices of the Institution, 32, Poultry; and at the Bar of the London Tavern.

W. H. L. STRUDWICKE, Sub-Secretary.

32, Poultry, April, 1847.

THE NEW ASYLUM FOR INFANT ORPHANS, STAMFORD HILL, for Orphans under eight years of age, without distinction of sex, place, or religious connection.

The NEXT HALF-YEARLY ELECTION of this Charity will occur on the THIRD MONDAY in JUNE. All persons interested in cases should make application forthwith to the Office, where blank forms for Candidates and every information can be obtained on any day from Ten till Four.

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W. H. L. STRUDWICKE, Sub-Secretary.

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The Committee thus appointed feel great pleasure in announcing the following subscriptions towards the heavy expenses they have necessarily incurred; and, as they expect to require from two to THREE HUNDRED POUNDS more than they have already received, they trust that the example of liberality given by those friends who have already subscribed will be cheerfully followed by others who feel interested in this important undertaking. The items of expenditure consist chiefly for rent of offices, and expenses of advertising.

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GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION.

AT A GENERAL CONFERENCE of the OPONENTS of the GOVERNMENT SCHEME of EDUCATION, from various parts of the Kingdom, assembled in CROSBY-HALL, LONDON, on TUESDAY, APRIL 13, and following days; Mr. Alderman KERSHAW, of Manchester, in the Chair, the following resolutions were adopted:—

Moved by the Rev. John Angel James, of Birmingham; seconded by the Rev. Charles Stovel, of London; and resolved unanimously:—

1. That this Conference appeals to many and well-known facts in proof of the affirmation that the Protestant Dissenters of Great Britain have ever been among the most zealous promoters of popular education; that they long strove for its advancement almost alone, discouraged, and opposed; and that to the present period they have been, and still are, its steadfast and devoted friends.

Moved by the Rev. R. W. Hamilton, D.D., L.L.D., of Leeds; seconded by the Rev. Joseph Fletcher, of Hanley; and resolved unanimously:—

2. That, waiving in the first instance all incidental and collateral objections, this Conference regards the scheme for bestowing honours and emoluments on the teachers of elementary schools, developed in the Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education of August and December last, as both vicious in principle and injurious in practice; vicious in principle, because, overlooking the natural relation between demand and supply, it annexes a bounty to the scholastic profession; and injurious in practice, because, like all bounties, it will overstock the market on the one hand, and produce a deteriorated article on the other.

Moved by Joseph Sturge, Esq., of Birmingham; seconded by Edward Baines, jun., Esq., of Leeds; and resolved unanimously:—

3. That the scheme being thus vicious and injurious as an educational measure, in the opinion of this Conference, there is nothing to break the force of those strong collateral objections to which it is liable; first, as having been brought forward, not in the constitutional form of a Bill, to be discussed in both Houses of Parliament, but as Minutes of a Committee of the Executive. Secondly, as involving in the issue a large and unprofitable expenditure of the public money; and, thirdly, as creating an influence on the part of the Government over the popular masses, which may at any time be employed for objects politically corrupt, and can scarcely exist for any considerable period without exercising an influence unfavourable to the national character.

Moved by the Rev. Robert Vaughan, D.D., President of the Lancashire Independent College; seconded by George William Alexander, Esq.; and resolved unanimously:—

4. That, most especially, this Conference objects to the Government measure, as, in a new form, allying the State with religious institutions, and thus aggravating an evil, already of enormous magnitude and pressure, by the creation of a subsidiary Ecclesiastical Establishment.

Moved by John Scoble, Esq., of London; seconded by the Rev. J. W. Massie, D.D., of Manchester; and resolved unanimously:—

5. That this Conference is constrained to regard the scheme developed in the Minutes of the Committee of Council with the greater jealousy, in consequence of the system of education recommended by her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, to be carried into effect therein, which being generally identical in its principles with that embodied in the Minutes of Council, proceeds to sanction in the position of a direct tax on the parents of the children to be educated, and the enactment of a law, to constrain them under penalties—to be enforced by the magistrate—to send their children to school.

Moved by the Rev. John L. Poore, of Salford; seconded by the Rev. Ebenezer Morley, of Hull; and resolved:—

6. That this Conference cannot refrain from expressing its astonishment at the professions of impartiality put forth by the promoters of the Government scheme—professions, as it now appears, without even the shadow of a foundation, since the scheme is understood to exclude Roman Catholic schools; and professions, which can have, under no circumstances, any real foundation, since the offer of State-pay to those whose conscientious opinions are known to prohibit the reception of it, must be either an insult or a mockery.

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Legge, of Leicester; seconded by the Rev. John Cockin, of Holmfirth; and resolved unanimously:—

7. That, in the judgment of this Conference the unsatisfactory issue of the efforts which successive Governments have made to extend their patronage of popular education, may be held to demonstrate the impossibility of their doing so with either benefit or safety; and to afford decisive practical evidence in support of a principle which has already found strenuous advocates, and which this Conference now avows, namely, that it is not within the province of Government to educate the people.

Moved by William White, Esq., of Bedford; seconded by John Chaplin, Esq., of Loxden, near Colchester; and resolved:—

8. That this Conference, believing the Government measure to be a deadly blow, both at the civil liberties of the community and at the valued institutions and interests of Dissenters, will, together with those whom they represent, feel deeply aggrieved by the conduct of every member of the House of Commons who may support it, and will consider that support as disqualifying such Members to represent in Parliament the friends of Civil and Religious Liberty.

Moved by Edward Dawson, Esq., of Lancaster; seconded by Samuel Morley, Esq., of London; and resolved unanimously:—

9. That it is the solemn conviction of this Conference that the circumstances of the times render it the bounden duty of all who value their civil and religious liberties as their best political birthright, and who justly regard with alarm the system of voting public money in aid of ecclesiastical purposes, as tending to establish an illicit and corrupt connexion between the Government and the teachers of religion, detrimental alike to the freedom of opinion and to the interests of truth—to make it a condition of giving their support to any Parliamentary candidate that he will oppose all further grants of public money for such purposes.

Moved by John Rutter, Esq., of Shaftesbury; seconded by Frederick Wheeler, Esq., of Rochester; and unanimously resolved:—

10. That, seeing how imperfectly the principles of Protestant Dissenters are understood in Parliament, even by those to whose efforts they have been indebted for the redress of some of their practical grievances, and how liable they are to the introduction of measures in which those principles are utterly disregarded and set at naught, the Conference cannot separate without earnestly recommending to Liberal electors the immediate adoption of well-considered means of securing the return to the House of Commons of such candidates as not merely profess to hold sacred the claims of religious liberty, but also clearly understand what those claims imply.

Moved by the Rev. John Ely, of Leeds; seconded by the Rev. H. H. Dobney, of Maidstone; and resolved unanimously:—

11. That a P. tition to the House of Commons, embodying the declaratory Resolutions of this Conference, and praying the House not merely to make no grant of money for carrying the Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education of August and December last into effect, but also to present an humble Address to the Crown to revoke the Order in Council, whereby the said Committee was appointed, be signed by the Chairman, on behalf of the Conference, and entrusted for presentation to John Bright, Esq., M.P.

Moved by George William Alexander, Esq., of London; seconded by the Rev. Andrew Reed, D.D., of London; and resolved unanimously:—

12. That this Conference has learned with satisfaction that Thomas S. Duncombe, Esq., Member for Finsbury, has given notice of a motion for the 19th instant, in the following terms:—

"That previous to any grant of public money being assented to by the House for the purpose of carrying out the scheme of National education, as developed in the Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education in August and December last, which Minutes had been presented to both Houses of Parliament, by command of Her Majesty, a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the justice and expediency of such scheme, and its probable annual cost; also to inquire whether the regulations attached thereto, do not unduly increase the influence of the Crown, invade the constitutional functions of Parliament, and interfere with the religious convictions and the civil rights of Her Majesty's subjects. The Committee to report their opinion, with the evidence to the House."

That this Conference, anxious to oppose by every constitutional means so objectionable a measure, feel grateful to Mr. Duncombe for the notice which he has given, and tender to him their respectful and cordial thanks.

Moved by J. W. Smith, Esq., of Sheffield; seconded by Mr. Bishop, of Exeter; and resolved unanimously:—

13. That Mr. Bright be requested, in case of the motion, of which notice has been given by Mr. Duncombe, should be lost, to move such further amendment as may seem to him best adapted to defeat the intentions of Government, and to place on record the declared sentiments of this Conference.

Moved by G. W. Alexander, Esq.; seconded by Samuel Morley, Esq.; and carried by acclamation:—

14. That the cordial thanks of this Conference be presented to James Kershaw, Esq., for the distinguished ability, patience, and impartiality with which he has presided over the protracted sittings of this Conference.

GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION.

AT AN AGGREGATE MEETING of the OPONENTS of the GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SCHEME, held at EXETER-HALL, on THURSDAY Evening, APRIL 15th,

JOHN BRIGHT, Esq., M.P., in the Chair,

The following resolutions were adopted:—

Moved by Joseph Sturge, Esq., of Birmingham; seconded by the Rev. Dr. Hamilton, of Leeds:—

1. That this Meeting having considered the Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education, of August and December, 1846, and other official documents connected therewith, are of opinion that the scheme therein developed is one which, while affording no reasonable security for the better instruction of the people, cannot be carried into effect without injury to those religious denominations which Dissent from the Established Church, nor without serious detriment to the freedom and independence of the community.

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Massie, of Manchester; seconded by Edward Miall, Esq.:—

2. That the virtual entrusting of Legislative power in a matter of such vast importance as the education of the people to a Committee of the Privy Council, appointed by the Crown, is dangerous to public liberty; and that the effecting of so great a change by a mere money vote of the House of Commons rather than by the usual method of a Bill in Parliament, is a violation of the spirit and practice of the British Constitution.

Moved by Edward Baines, jun., Esq.; and seconded by the Rev. J. H. Hinton, A.M.:—

3. That while, in the deliberate judgment of this meeting, it forms no part of the right or duty of the Government to interfere, either by patronage or by control, in the question of education, they are profoundly sensible of the value and importance of promoting, by voluntary and independent means, the sound instruction of the people, and recognize, with great satisfaction, the rapid progress which, during the last few years, has been made in the establishment of efficient schools, and in improving the quality of the tuition provided for the children of the working-classes; and that this meeting acknowledge the obligation to use their utmost exertions towards supplying whatever deficiency may still exist.

MOURNING.

THE CACHMERE ROYAL.—This beautiful fabric, manufactured from the purest material, of a soft and durable texture, especially adapted for mourning attire, is now superseding all other descriptions of cloth. Price from 2s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. a yard, very wide. Sole Agent for the City, R. W. BECKLEY, Mourning Warehouse, 37, Ludgate-street, St. Paul's, nearly opposite Everingtons.

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE BRITISH ANTI-STATE CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE beg to announce that, in consequence of the numerous appointments of Delegates reported to them, they have been compelled to alter the place of meeting for the Conference, on the 4th of May, from the London Tavern to CROSBY HALL, Bishopsgate-street.

F. A. COX, } Secretaries.
E. MIALL, }
J. M. HARE, }

Offices, 12, Warwick-square, Paternoster-row,
April 19, 1847.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION. TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE.

It having been suggested that in consequence of the threatening aspect which the Government Educational Scheme bears towards Dissenting Schools, the Superintendents and Teachers of such schools should be empowered to send Delegates to the approaching Triennial Conference to be held in London on the 4th of May, the Executive Committee refer the friends of such institutions to the second and third Regulations, under which the Conference is convened, as affording them every facility for realising this desirable object.

The following are the Regulations referred to:—

"Any two delegates appointed by a meeting, congregational or otherwise, publicly convened, which shall have adopted the fundamental principle of the Society."

"Any two delegates nominated in writing by one hundred persons in any city, borough, parish, or township, or in more than one of these united, such parties expressly concurring in the fundamental principle of the Society."

F. A. COX, } Secretaries.
E. MIALL, }
J. M. HARE, }

Offices, 12, Warwick-square, Paternoster-row,
April 7, 1847.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE.—It is specially requested by the Executive Committee that the names and addresses of gentlemen appointed to attend the Triennial Conference, to be held in London, on the 4th of May next, together with a statement of the mode of their appointment, may be forwarded immediately to the office of the Association, in order that cards of admission may be transmitted to them.

Members of the Association intending to be present, may procure cards of admission on application at this office, on the 13th, 14th, or 15th instant.

F. A. COX, } Secretaries.
E. MIALL, }
J. M. HARE, }

Office, 12, Warwick-square, Paternoster-row,
April 3rd, 1847.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the BAPTIST HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY will be held at FINSBURY CHAPEL, on MONDAY EVENING Next, April the 26th. Chair to be taken precisely at Half-past Six, by JEREMIAH COLMAN, Esq., Mayor of Norwich.

Tea will be provided for Ministers and Friends from the Country at Half-past Five, at the White Hart Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.

A PUBLIC MEETING of GENTLEMEN in favour of MR. SPOONER'S BILL for the SUPPRESSION of TRADING in SEDUCTION and PROSTITUTION, will take place at the Eastern Institution, Commercial-road, on Friday Evening next, at Seven o'clock.

LUKE JAMES HANSARD, Esq., in the chair.

HENRY JOSEPH NEWMAN, Secretary.
Offices of the Associate Institution,
84, St. Swithin's-lane, City.

ONE THOUSAND POUNDS.—PRIZE PICTURES. Subject: BAPTISM OF CHRIST IN THE JORDAN. The Competition Works of Art have been two years in preparing. The Canvass is Fifteen Feet by Twelve Feet. This Exhibition has been honoured with a private visit by his Royal Highness the Prince Albert, and is now open to the Public daily from Nine till Six. Admittance, One Shilling; Families of Five, Four Shillings. Picture Gallery, late Chinese Exhibition, Hyde Park-corner.

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE PROPOGATION OF THE GOSPEL AMONG THE JEWS.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Subscribers and Friends of the Society will be held, on THURSDAY Evening, April 22nd, in FREEMASONS'-HALL, Great Queen-street. The Chair to be taken at SIX o'clock. Tickets may be had at the Office, No. 1, Crescent-place, Blackfriars; of Messrs. Aylott and Jones, 8, Paternoster-row; Nisbet and Co., 21, Berners-street; Cotes, 139, Cheapside; and Miller and Field, 6, Bridge-road, Lambeth.

GENERAL PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT, 4, HORSE-SHOE-COURT, LUDGATE-HILL.

MESSRS. C. S. MIALL and S. COCKSHAW beg to inform their friends and the public that they have purchased the Printing Business of Mr. J. HASLER, late of 4, Crane-court, now removed to 4, Horse-shoe-court, Ludgate-hill, where they execute orders for every description of printing with neatness and despatch. Book-Work, Catalogues, Prospectuses, Circulars, &c., printed on the shortest notice.

•• The publishing office of the "Nonconformist" and "General Advertiser" newspapers is now removed to the above address.

BENJAMIN L. GREEN (Son of Rev. Samuel GREEN, Walworth), late with Mr. JOHN SNOW, 35, Paternoster-row, begs respectfully to announce, that he has succeeded to the Bookselling and Publishing business, 62, Paternoster-row, which Mr. James Dinis has been compelled to relinquish on account of severe personal affliction.

B. L. GREEN invites the attention of Ministers, Students, and Book-buyers generally, to his valuable Stock of STANDARD WORKS, New and Second-hand, which he offers at very low prices. Catalogues will be ready in a few days, and will be forwarded, post-free, on application.

B. L. GREEN intends to keep constantly on hand a well-selected and complete assortment of EDUCATIONAL and JUVENILE WORKS, comprising especially all the valuable Books for the Young, published by Messrs. Oliphant, of Edinburgh; as also those of the Religious Tract Society and Sunday School Union.

Parents and Teachers will, it is hoped, avail themselves of the peculiar advantages of such a Depository. Authors are assured that B. L. Green will be ready at all times to afford them every facility for the publication of their works.

62, Paternoster-row, London.

Printed by CHARLES SEPTIMUS MIALL, of No. 55, Gracechurch-street, in the City of London, and SAMUEL COCKSHAW, of No. 48, Baker-street, in the parish of St. James, Clerkenwell, at No. 4, Horse-shoe-court, in the parish of St. Martin Ludgate, in the City of London, and published, for the proprietor, by CHARLES SEPTIMUS MIALL, at the office, No. 4, Horse-shoe-court, Ludgate-hill.—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1847.